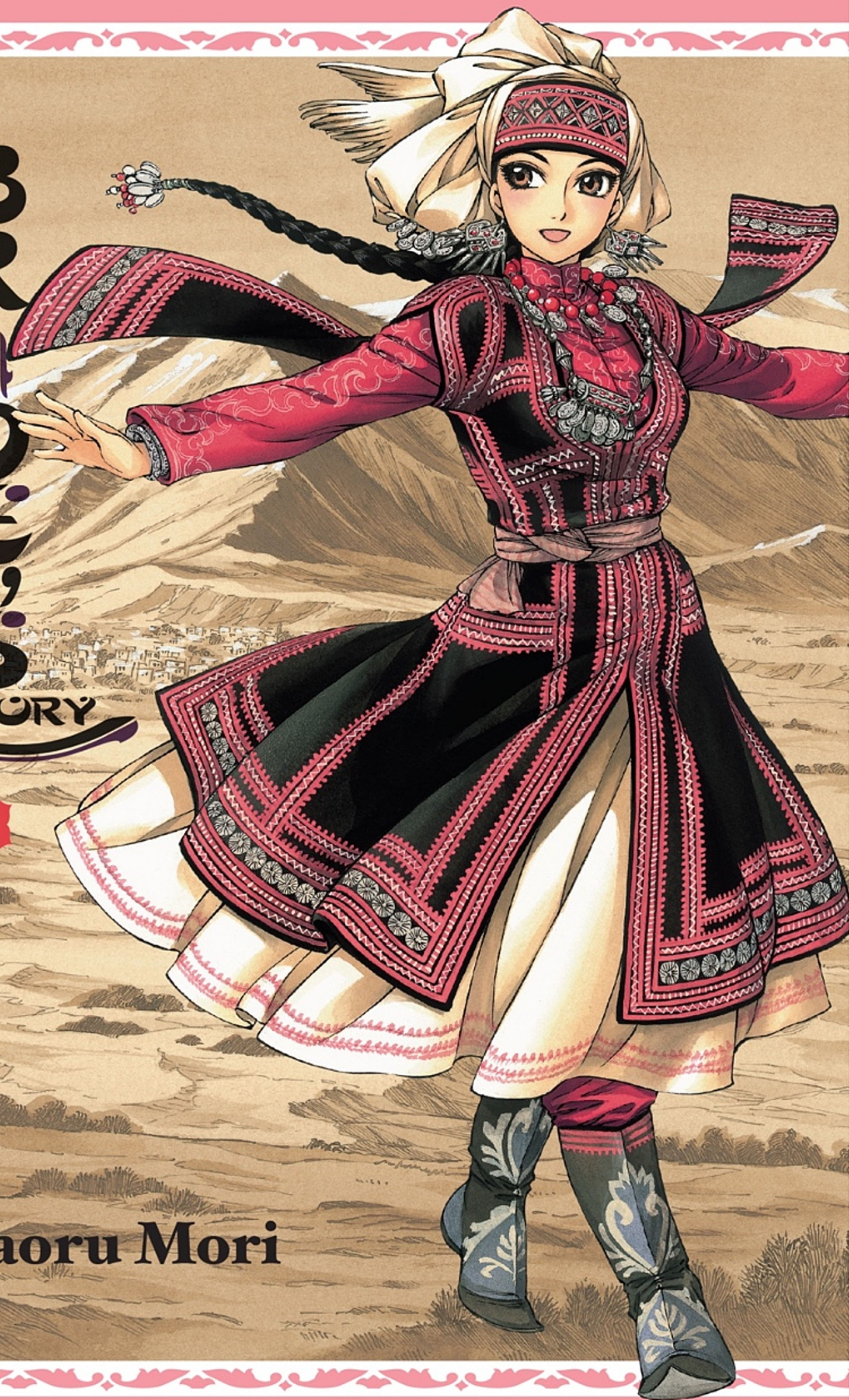


BRI DE 'S STORY

1

Kaoru Mori



BRIDE'S STORY

1

Kaoru
Mori





TABLE OF CONTENTS



CHAPTER 1
THE BRIDE AND HER YOUNG GROOM — 003

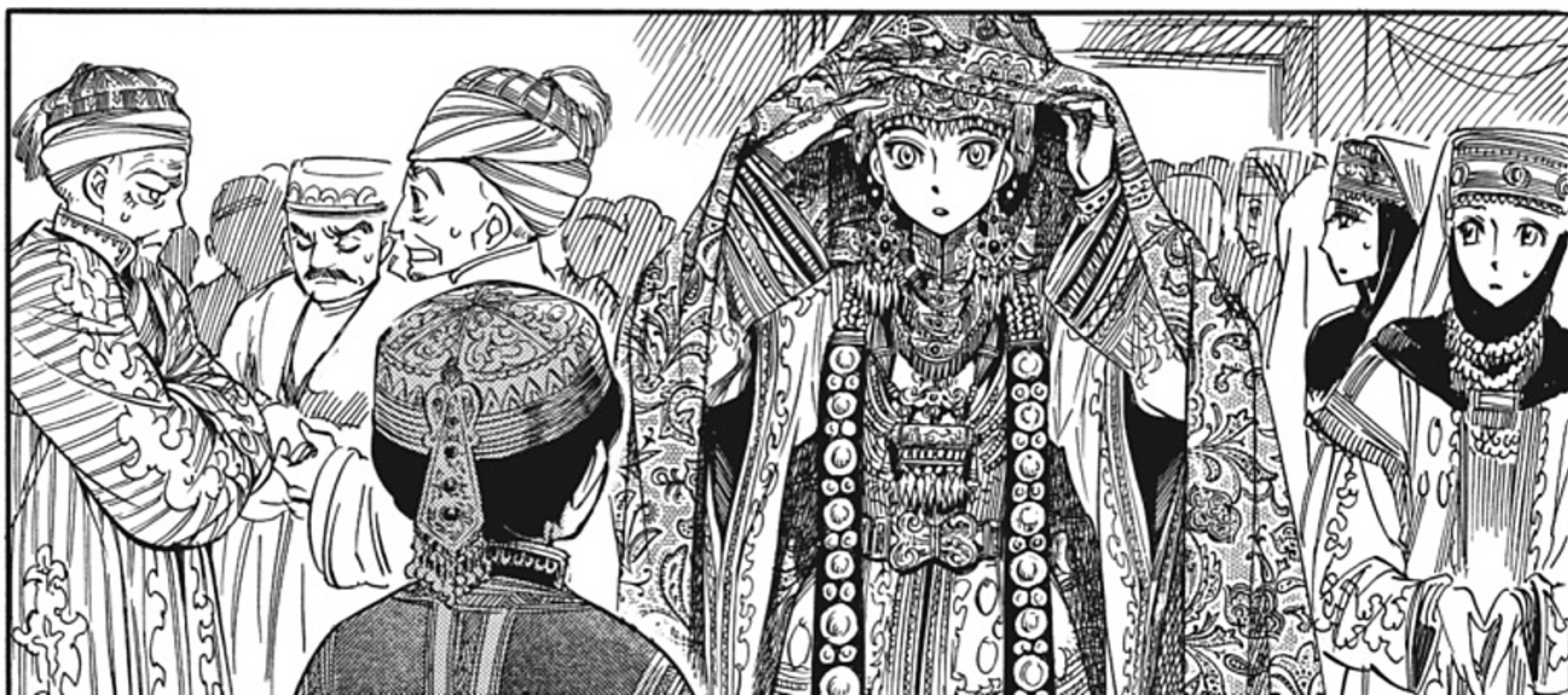
CHAPTER 2
THE CHARM — 043

CHAPTER 3
HORSEBACK — 085

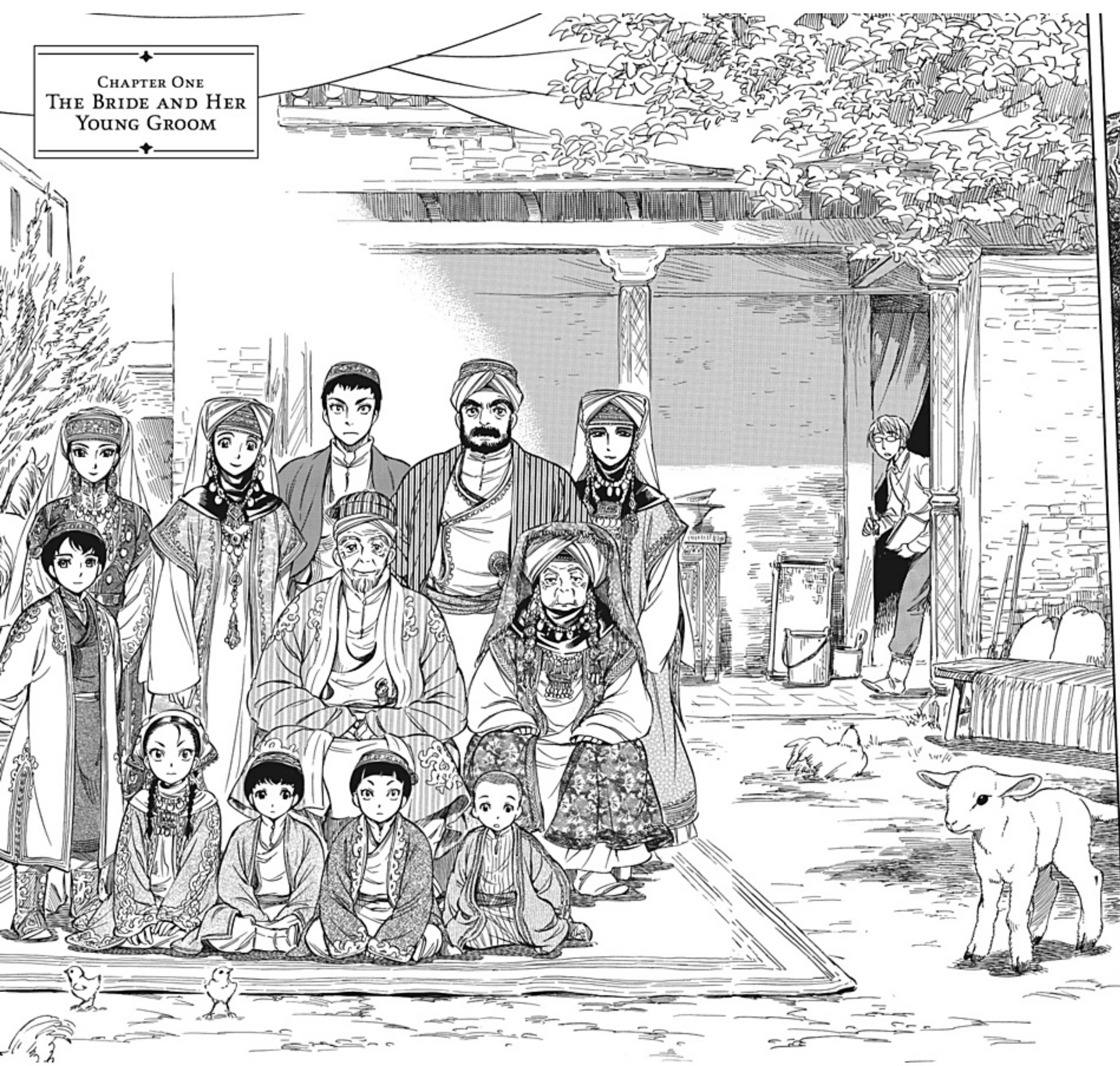
CHAPTER 4
WE WANT AMIR RETURNED — 123

CHAPTER 5
THE COLD — 153

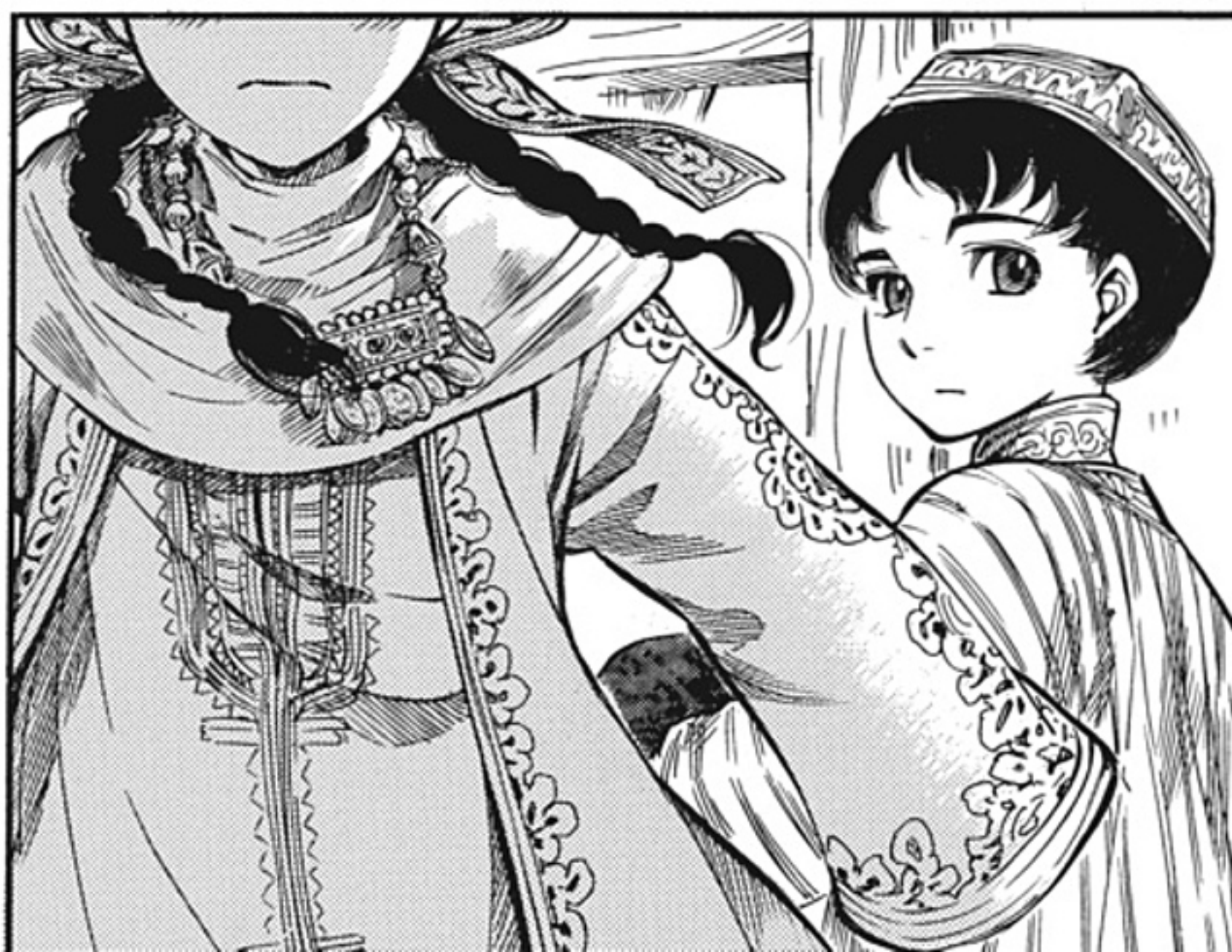
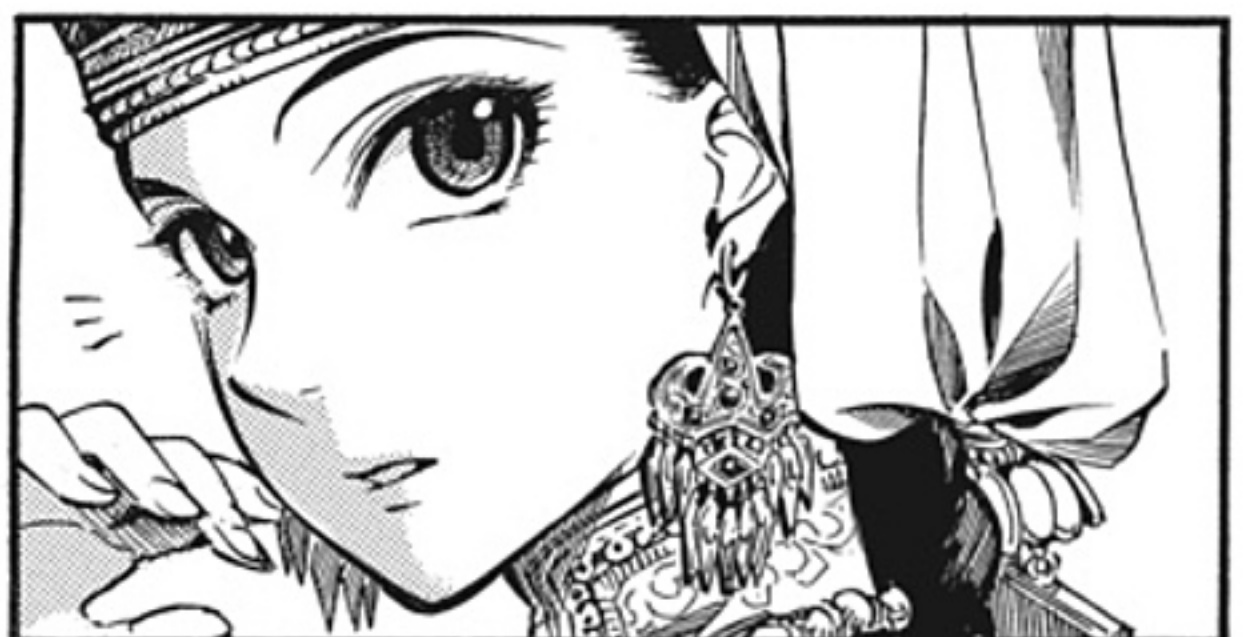
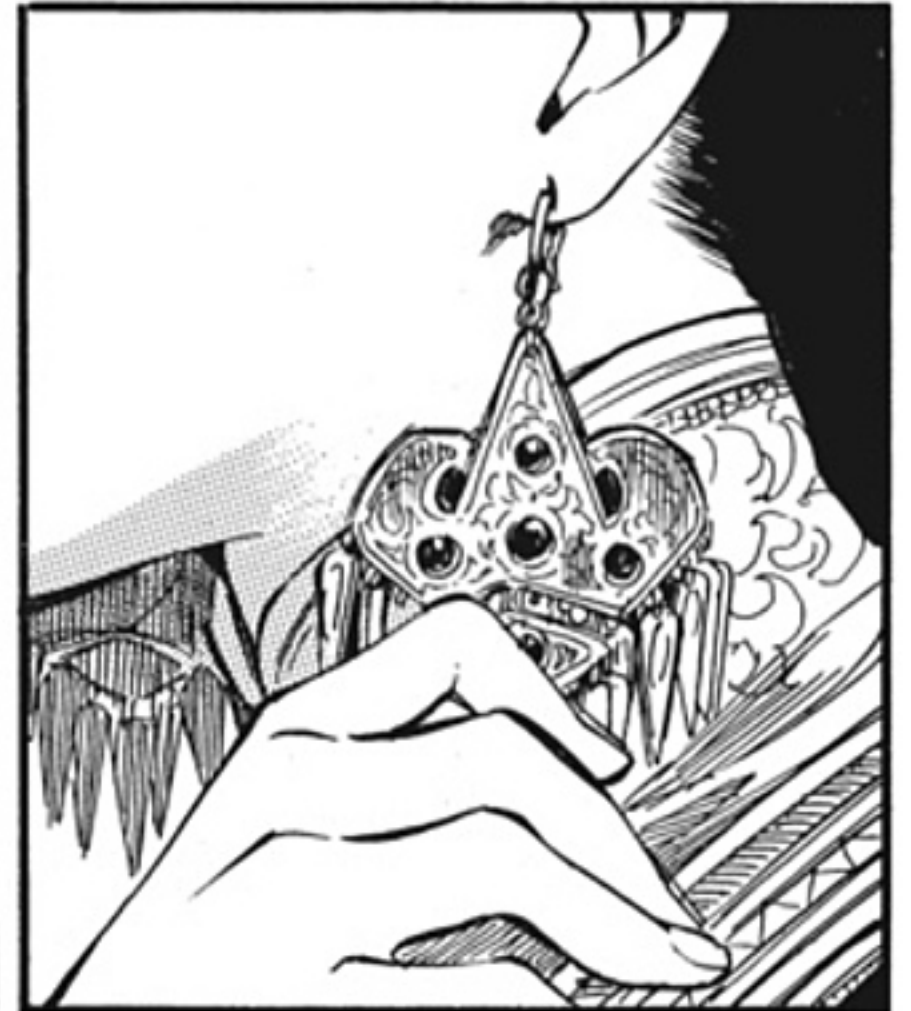
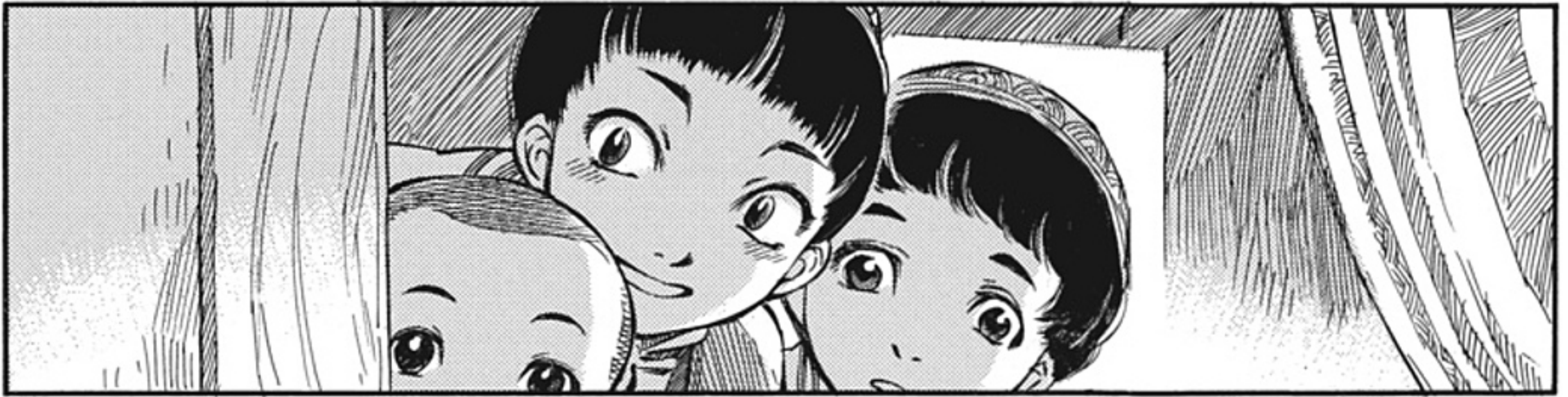




CHAPTER ONE
THE BRIDE AND HER
YOUNG GROOM





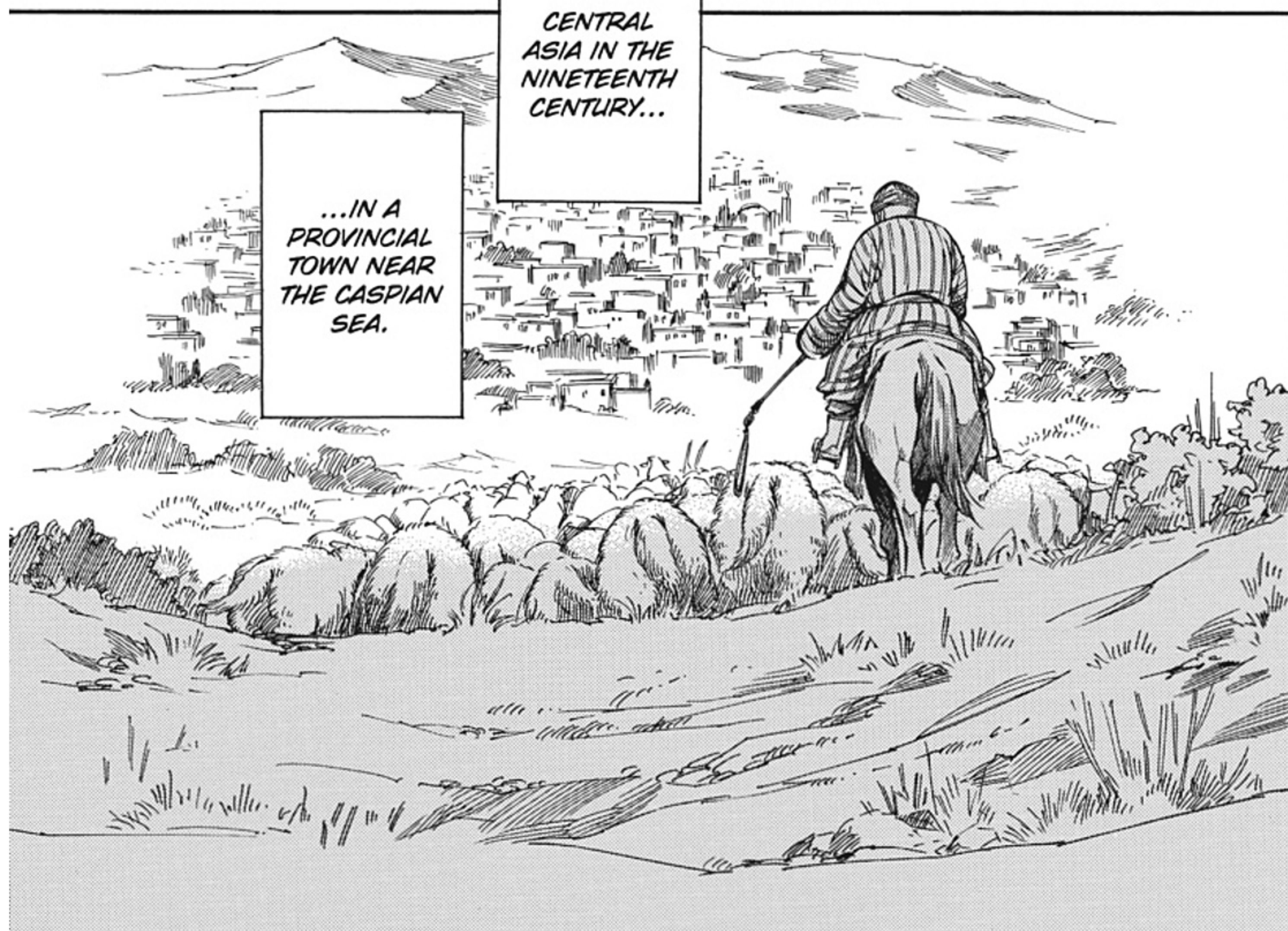






CENTRAL
ASIA IN THE
NINETEENTH
CENTURY...

...IN A
PROVINCIAL
TOWN NEAR
THE CASPIAN
SEA.



...WAS EIGHT
YEARS THE
GROOM'S
SENIOR.

THE BRIDE WHO
ARRIVED ON
HORSEBACK
FROM A DISTANT
VILLAGE THAT
LAY ACROSS THE
MOUNTAINS...

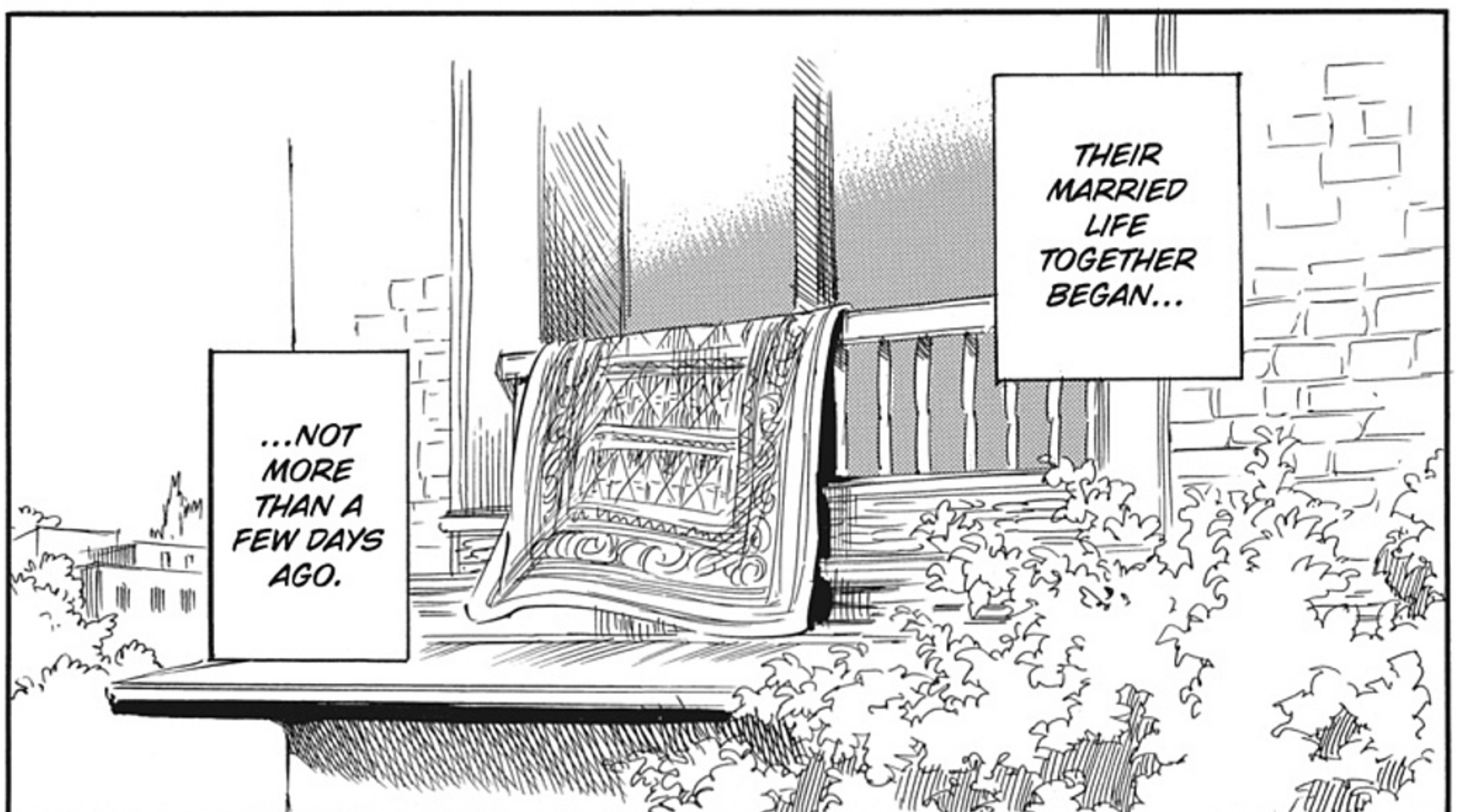
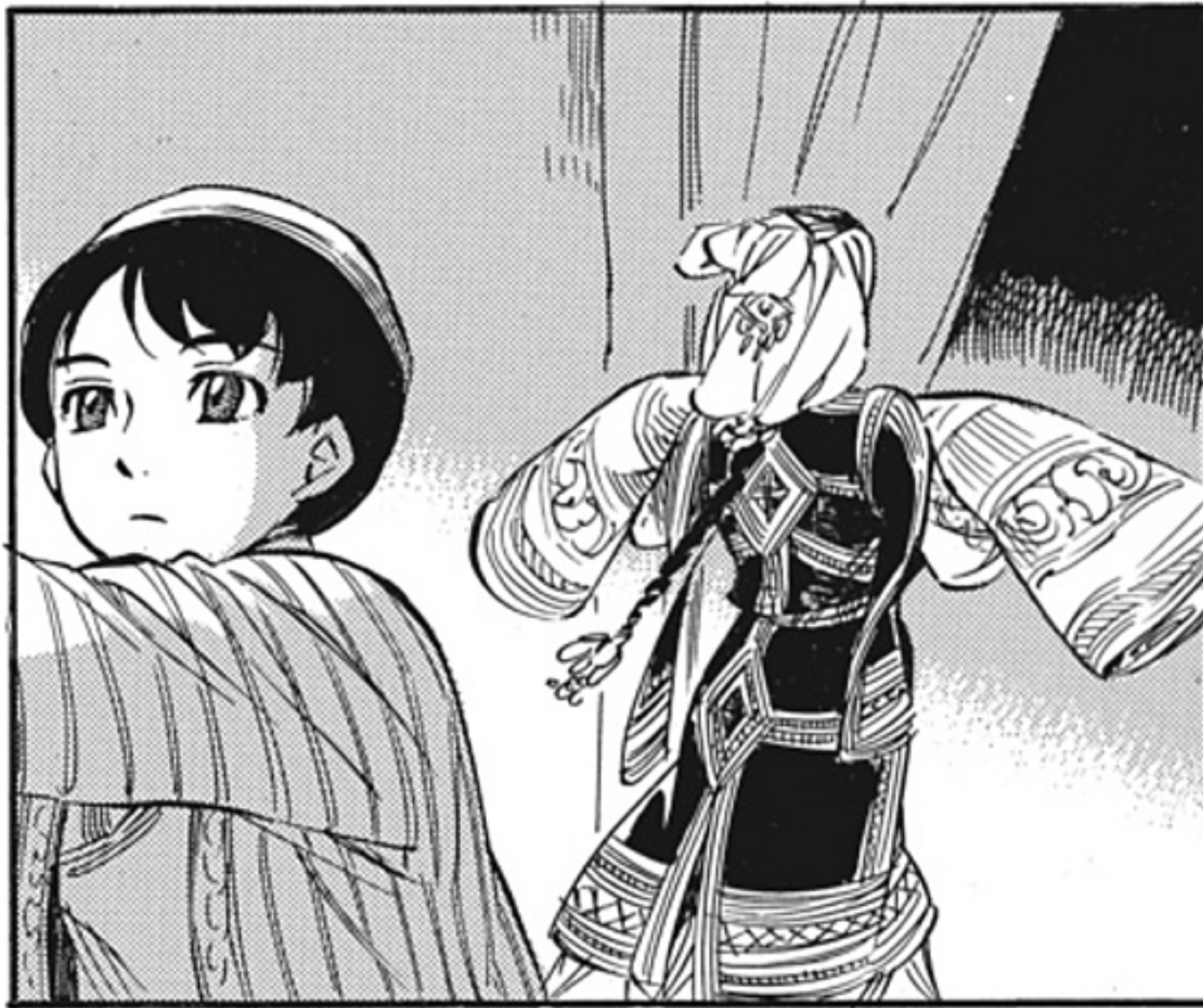


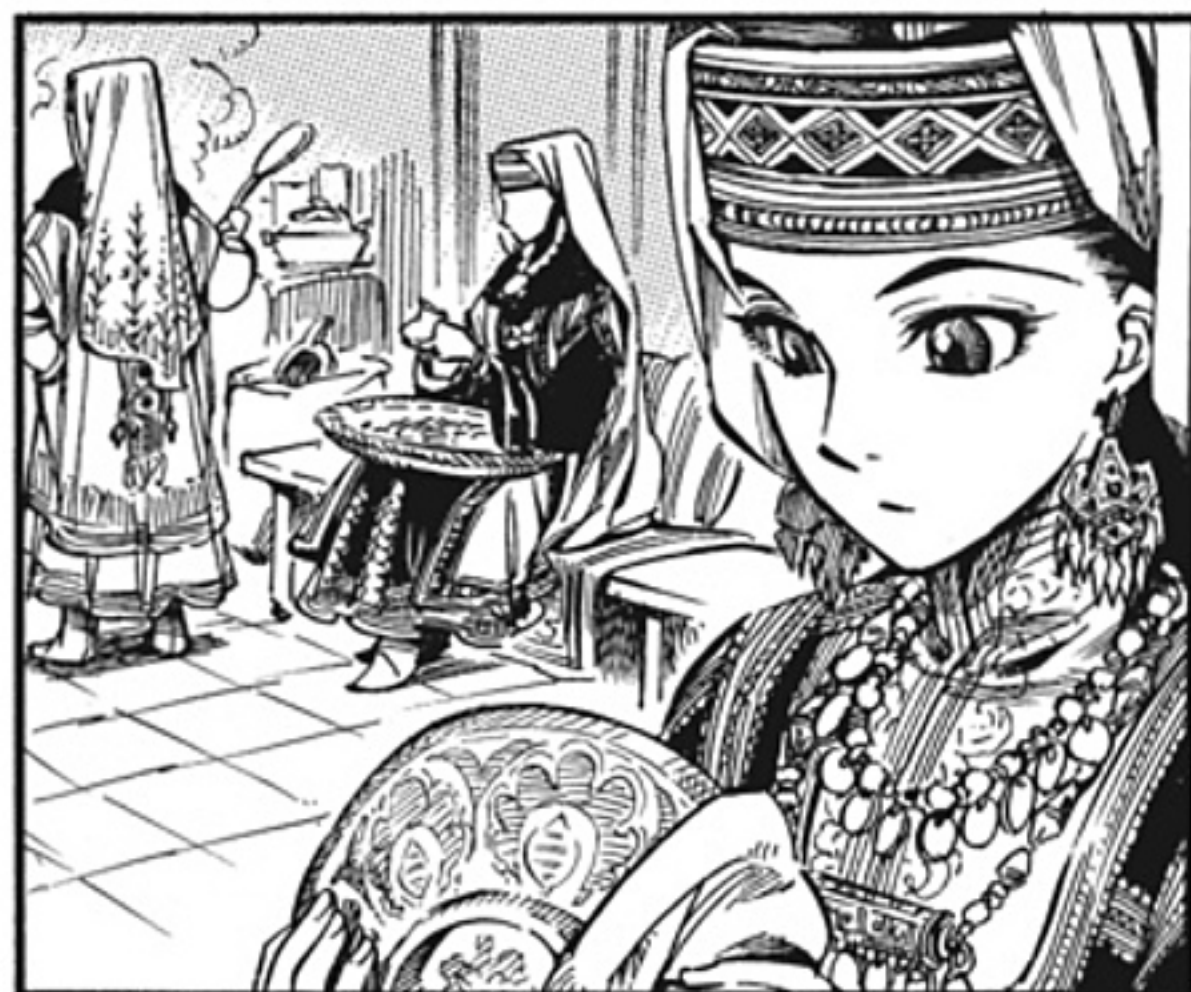
KARLUK
EIHON.

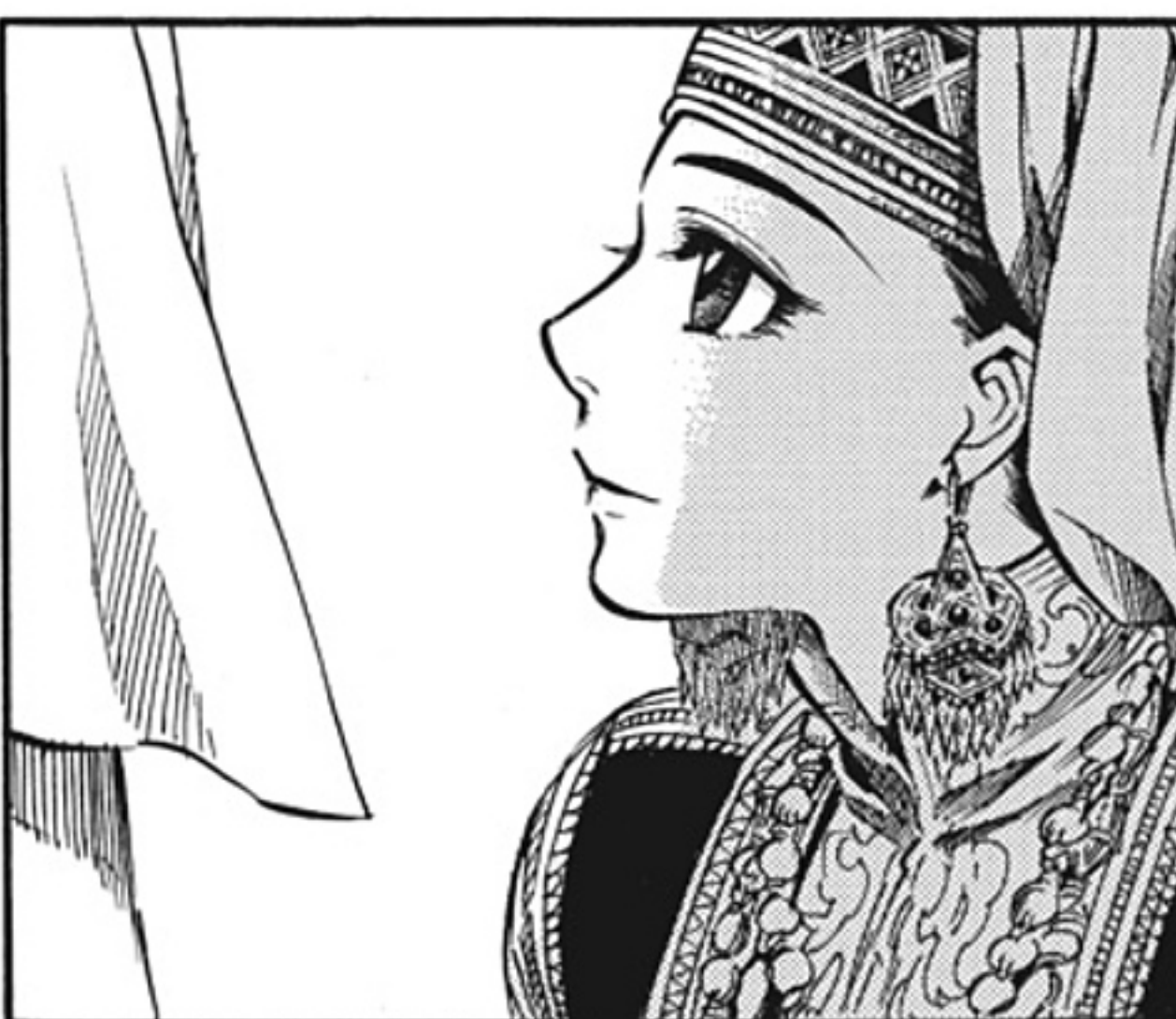
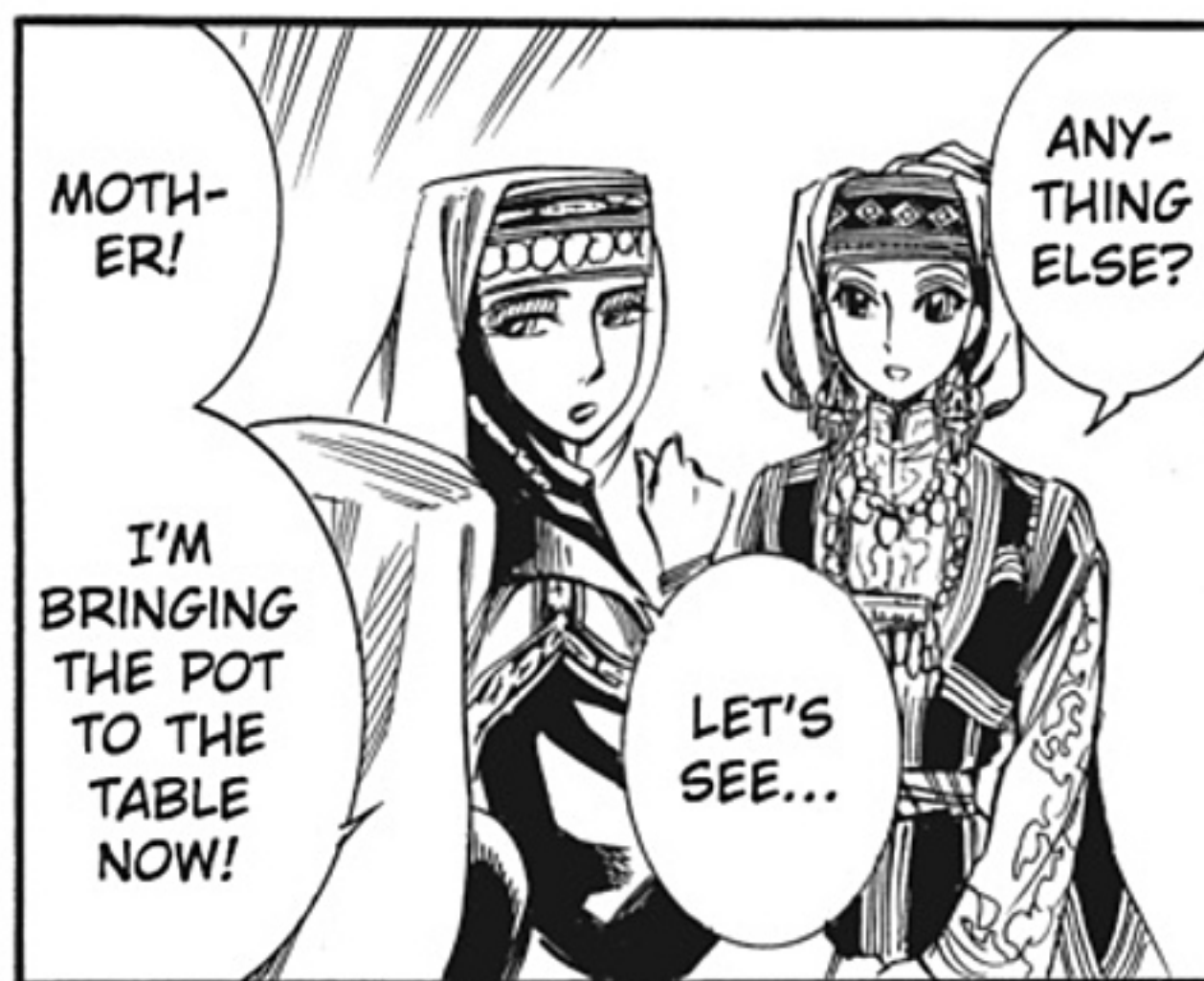
TWELVE
YEARS
OLD.

AMIR
HALGAL.

TWENTY
YEARS
OLD.

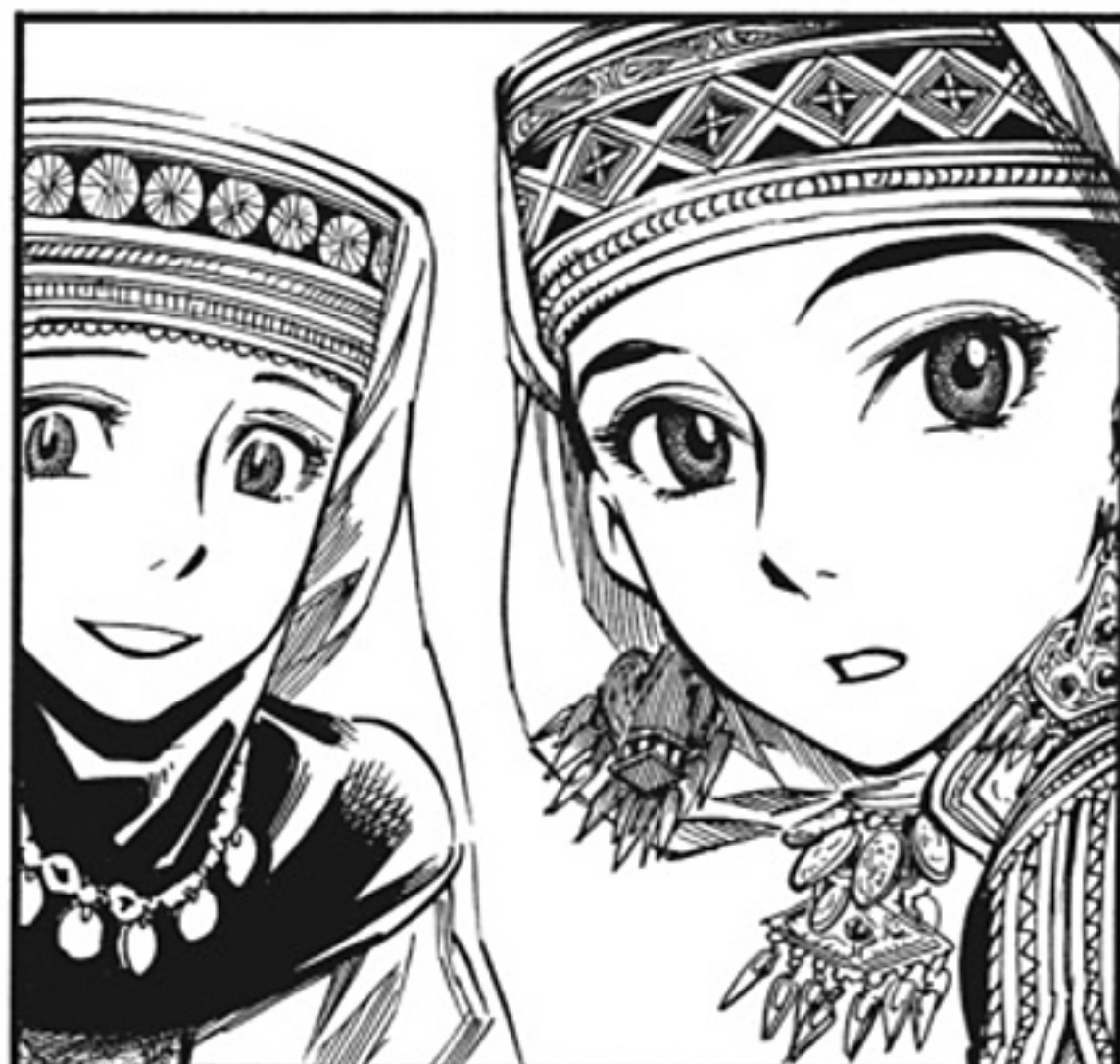
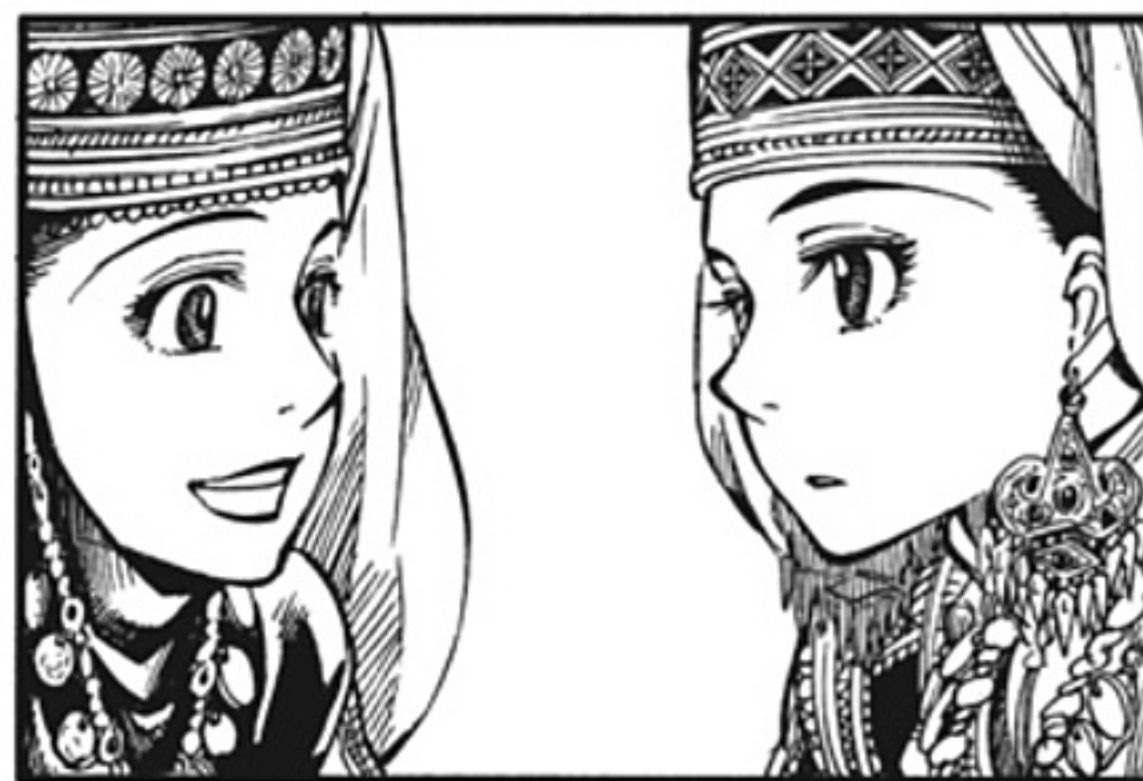




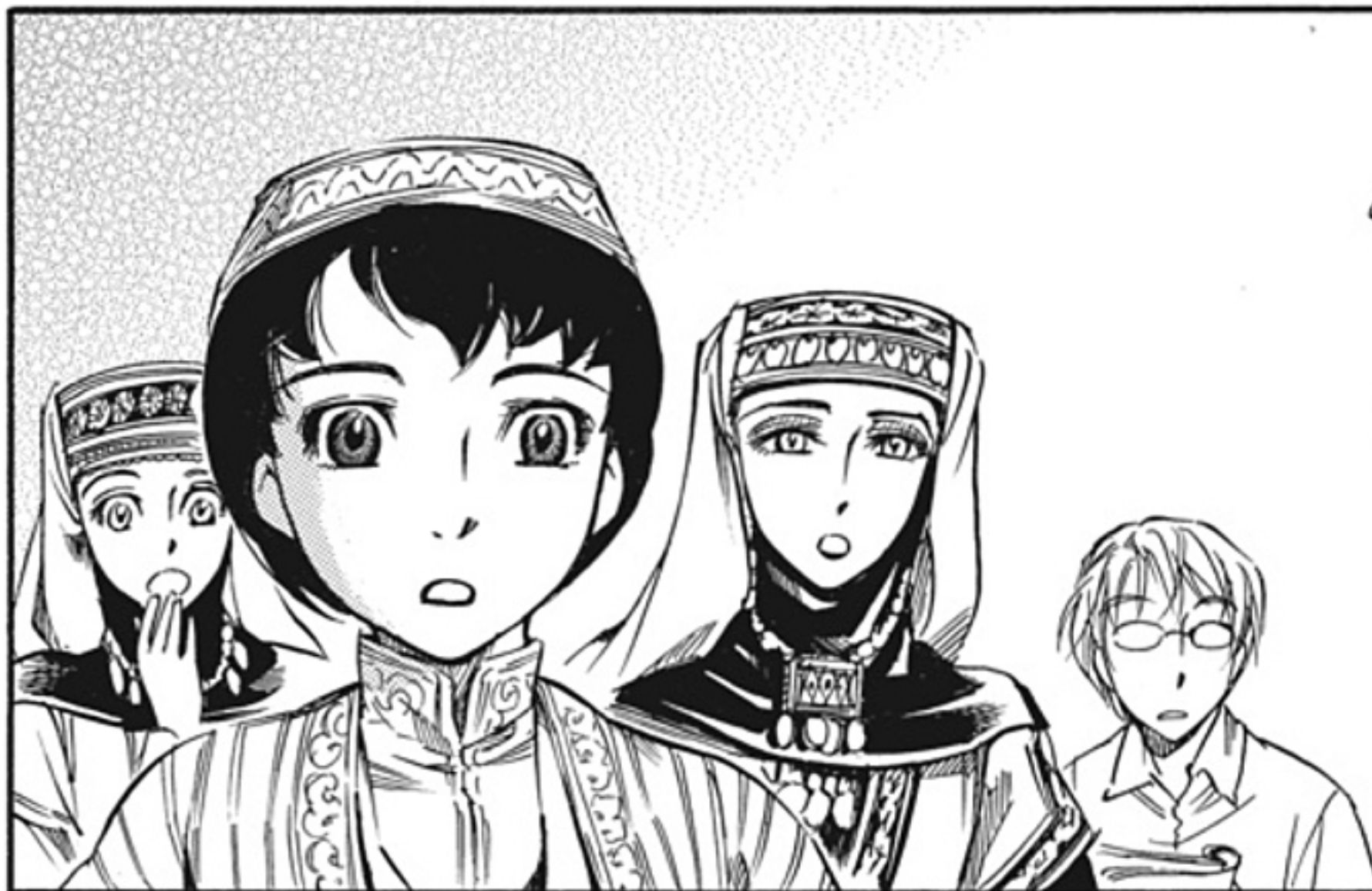














NOBODY
AROUND HERE
GOES RABBIT
HUNTING, IS
THAT RIGHT?

IF SO,
I THINK
I CAN GET
SOME FOR
US.

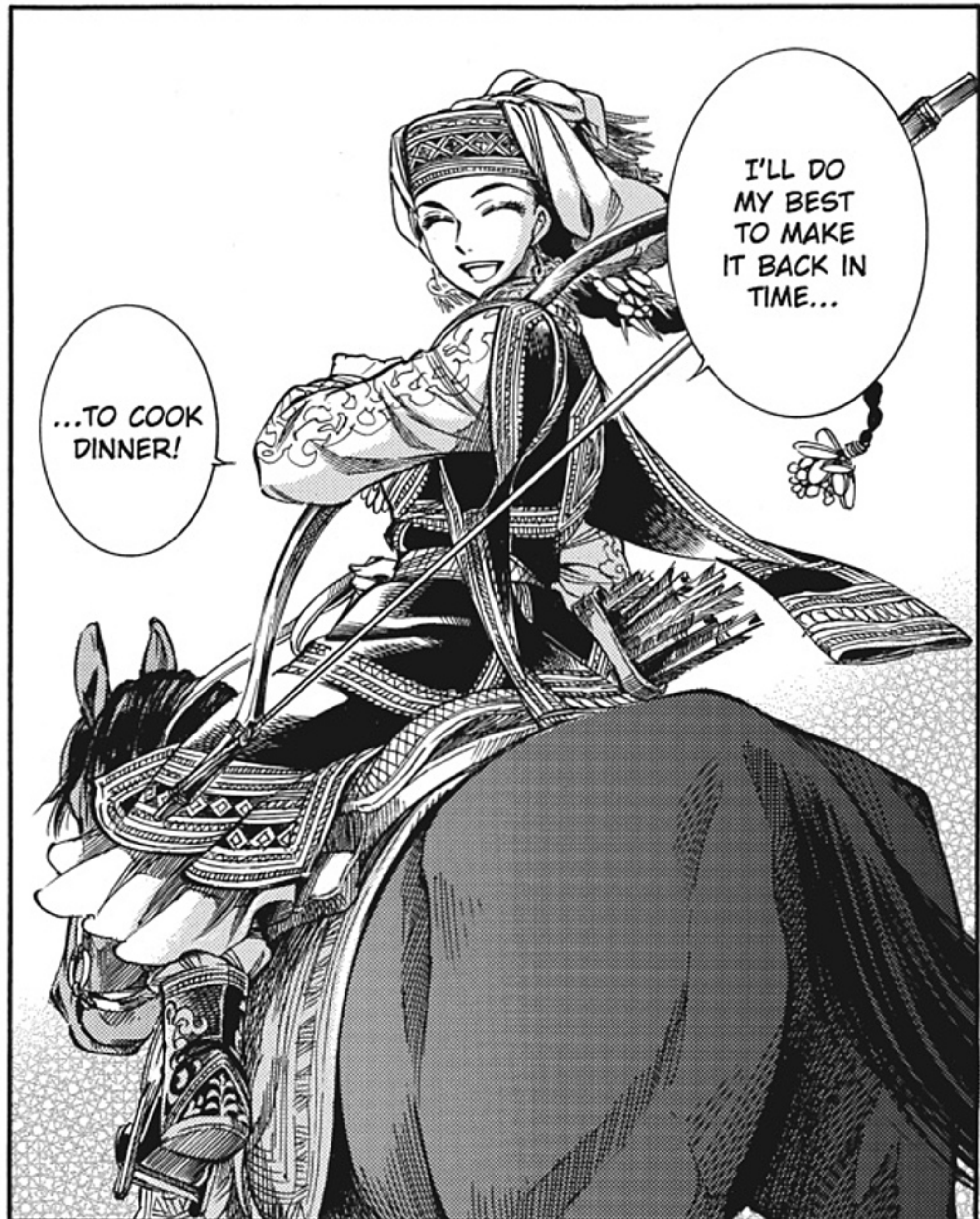


I WONDER
IF THERE
EVEN ARE
RABBITS
IN THIS
AREA?

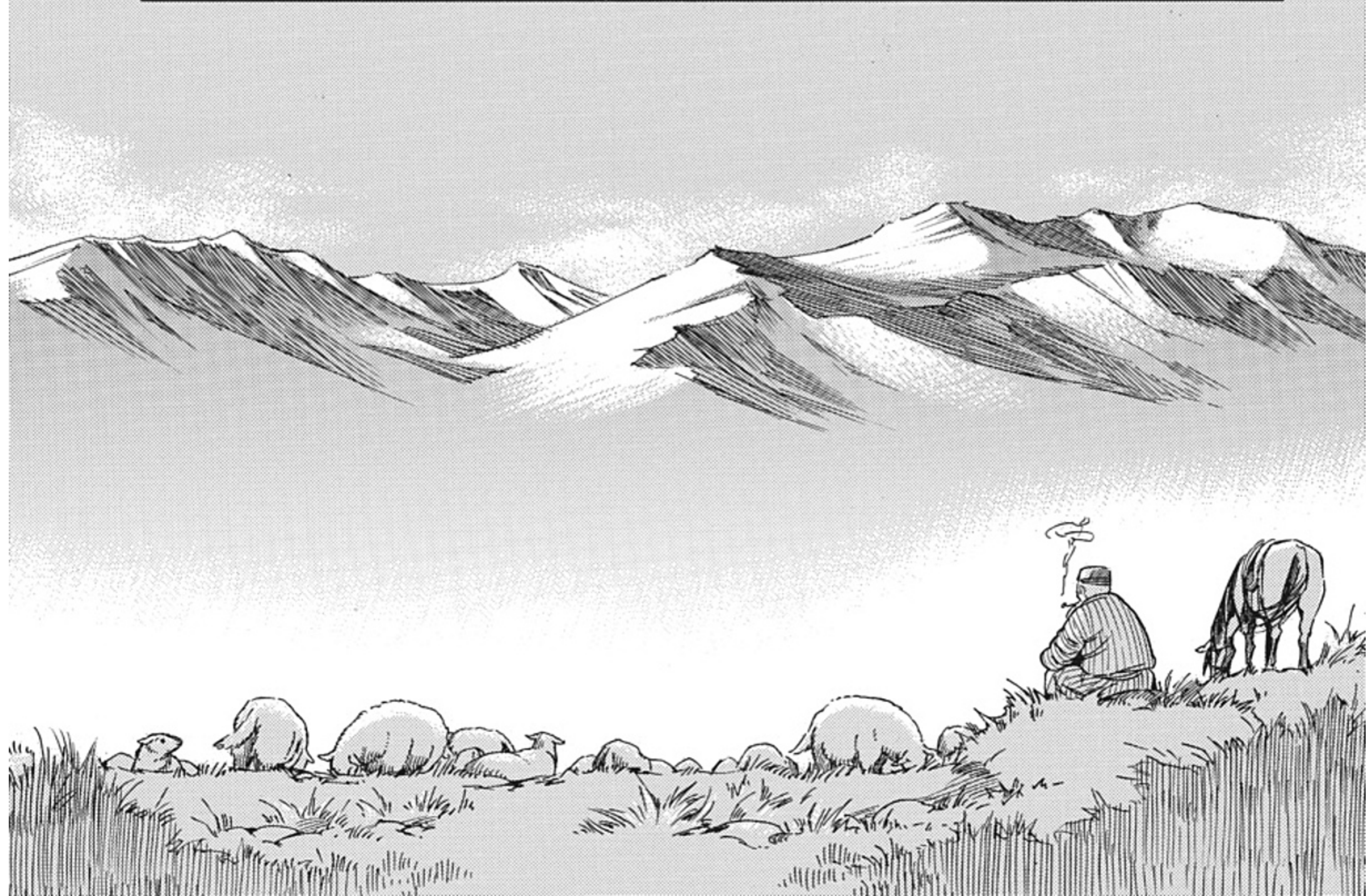
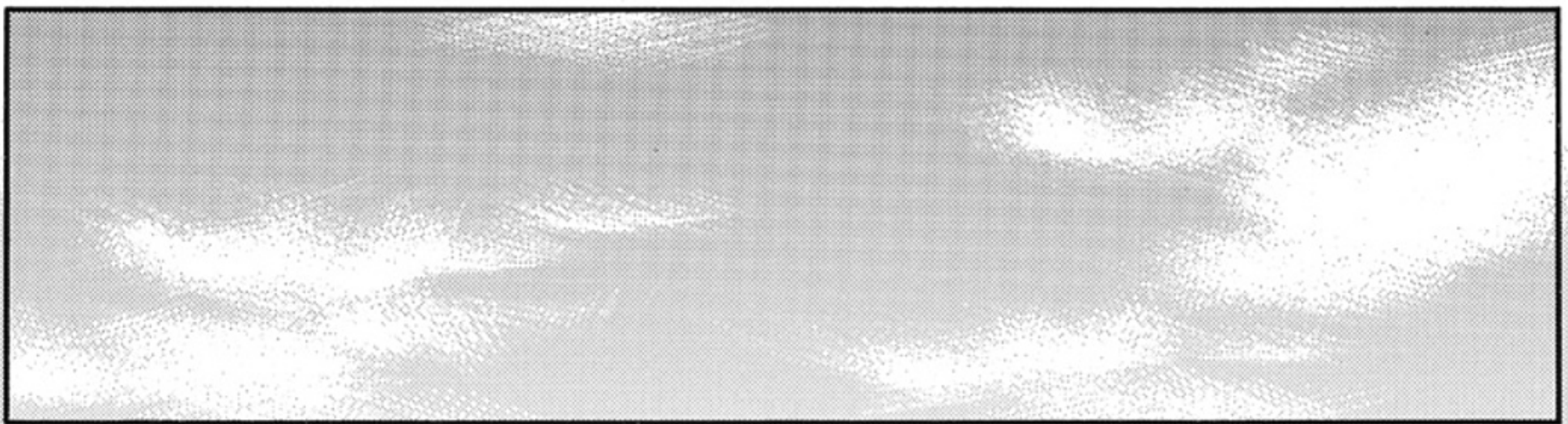
I SAW
SOME
NEAR
LAKE
SOMA.

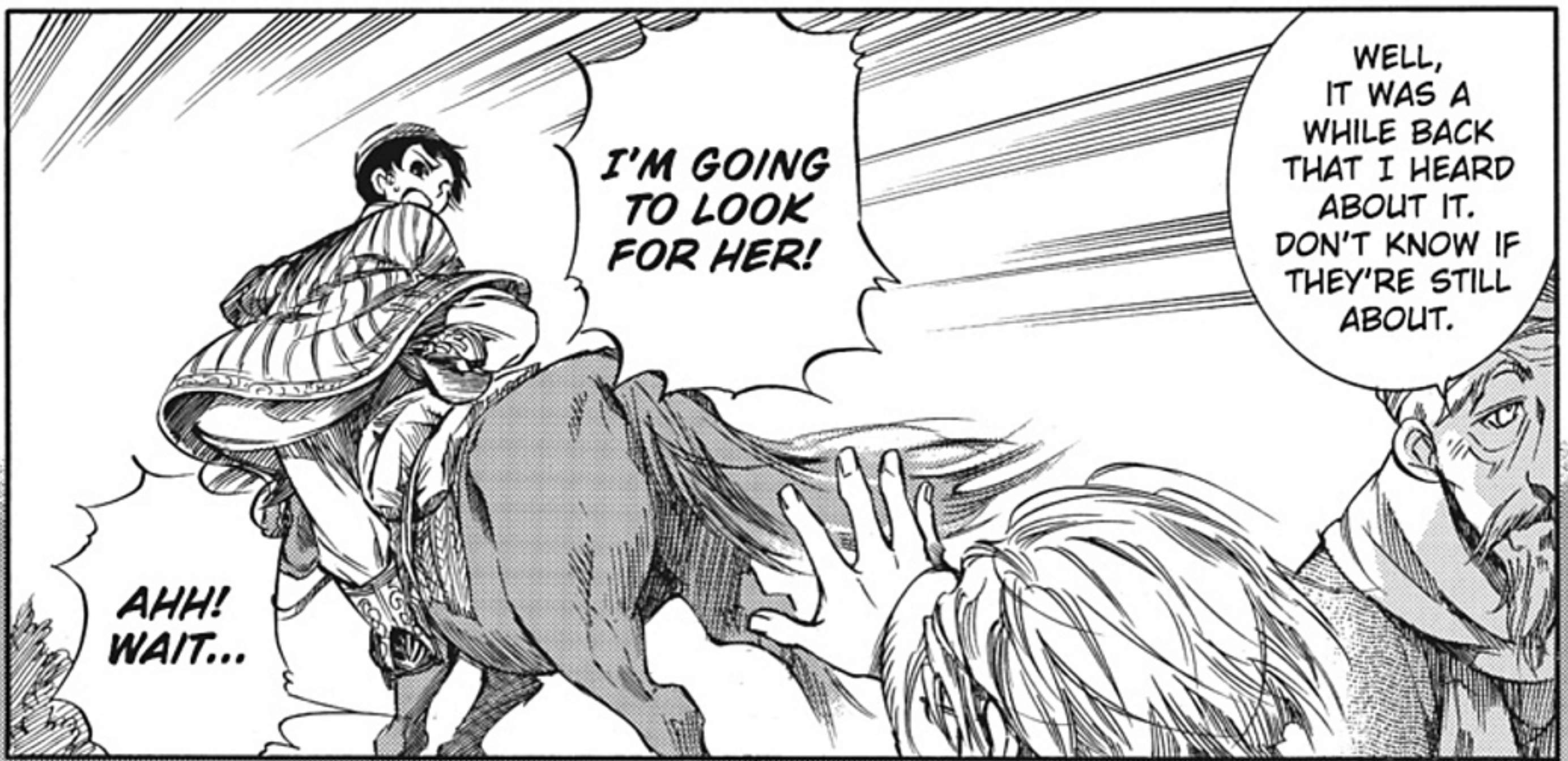


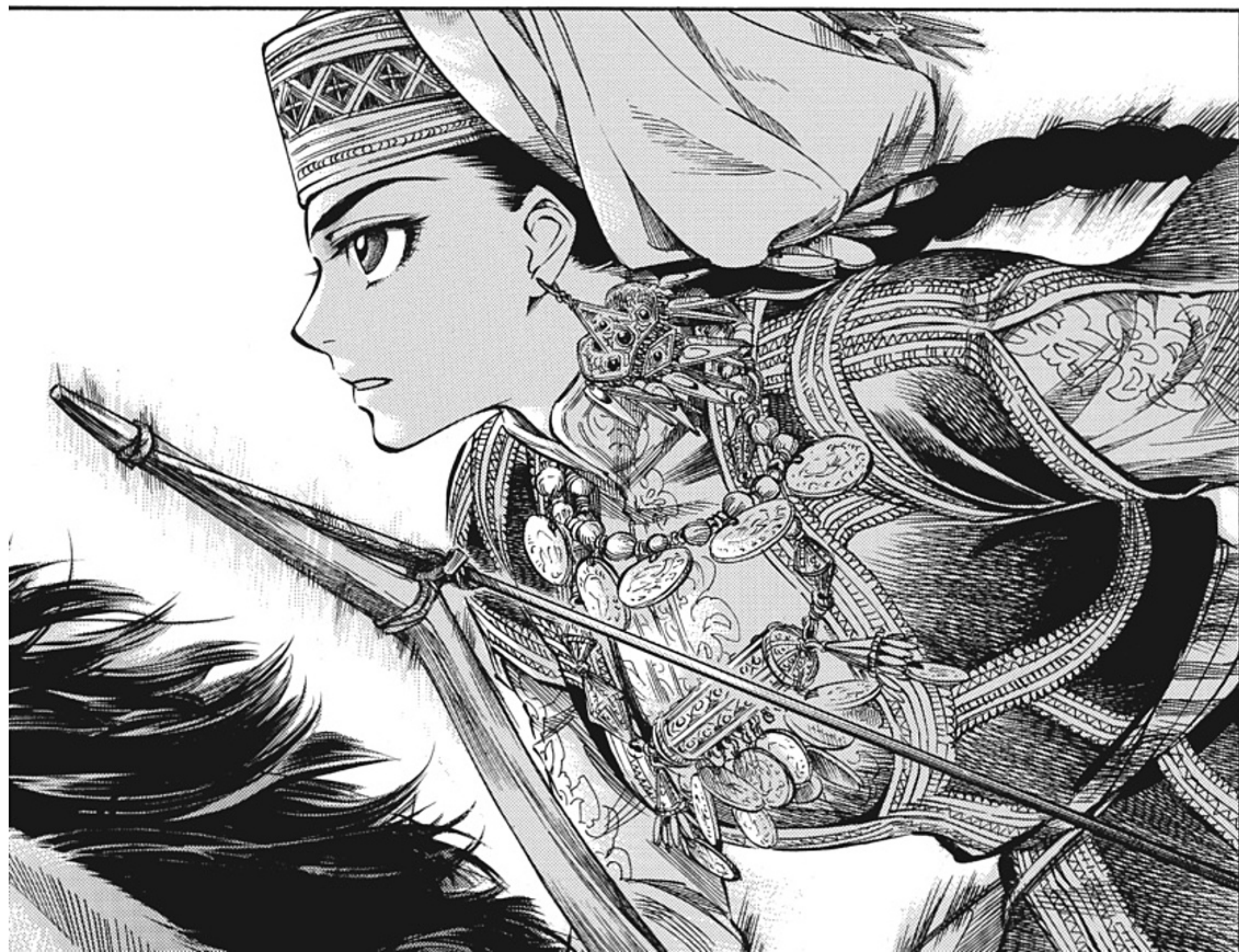
...TO COOK
DINNER!

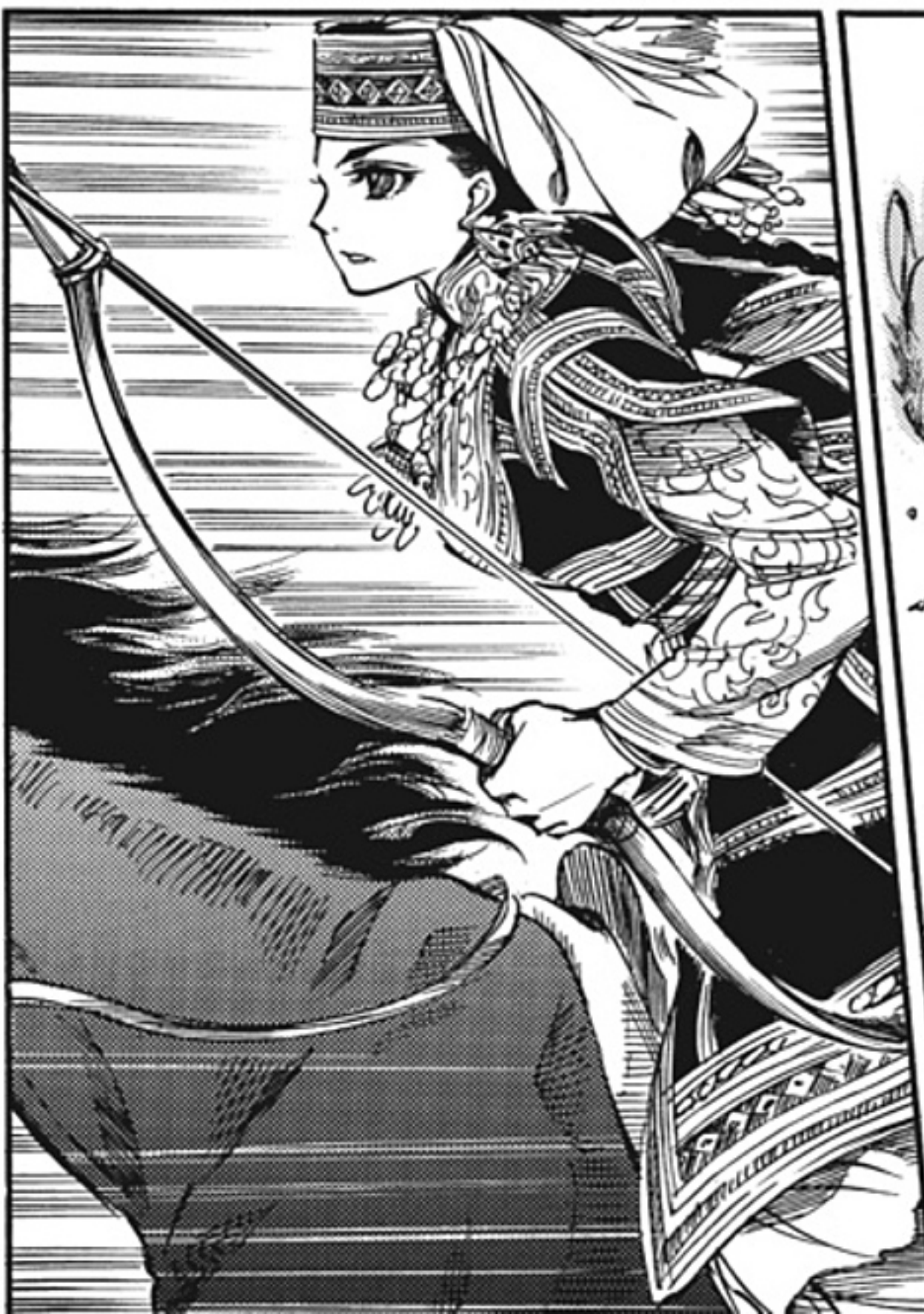


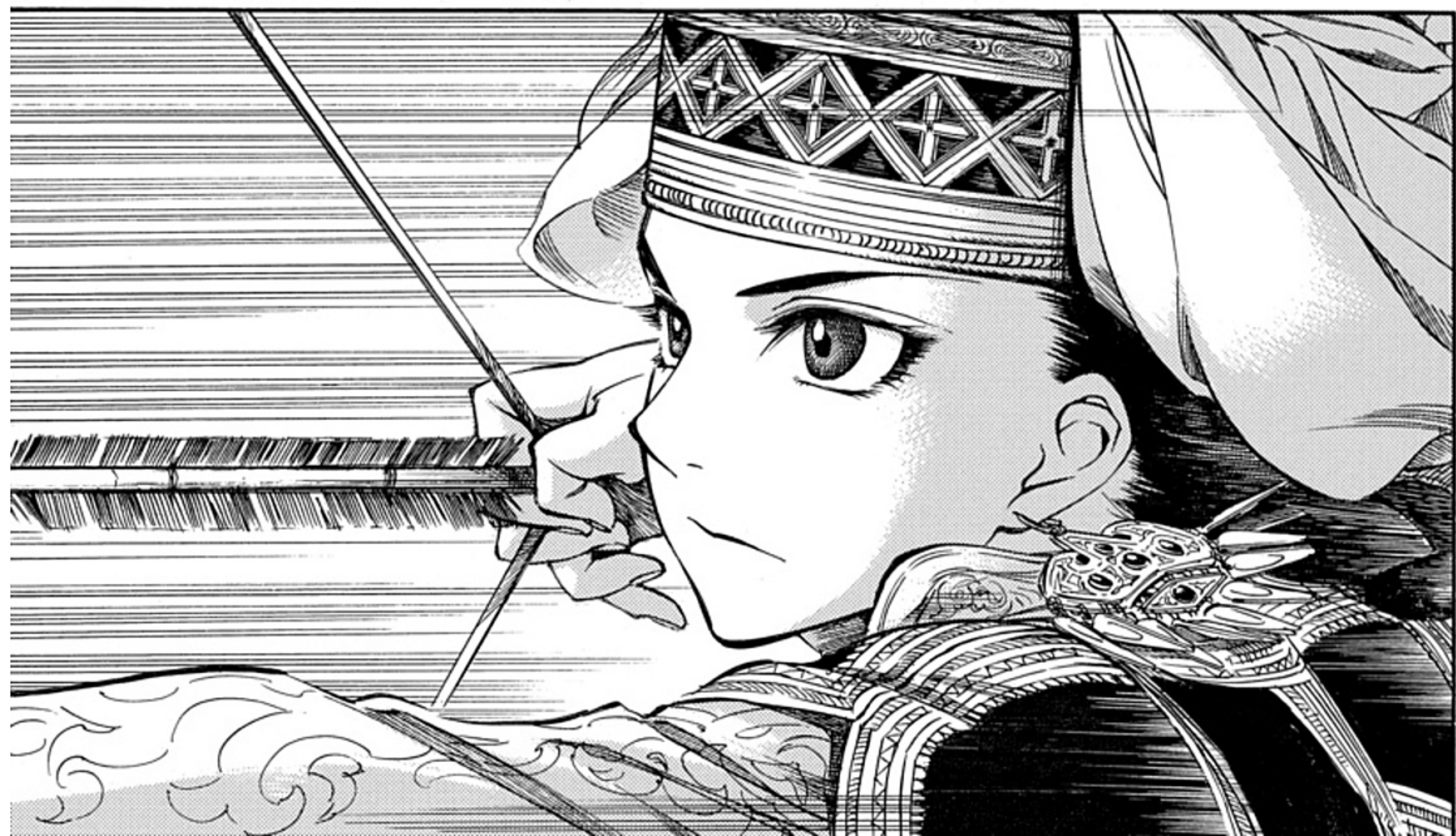
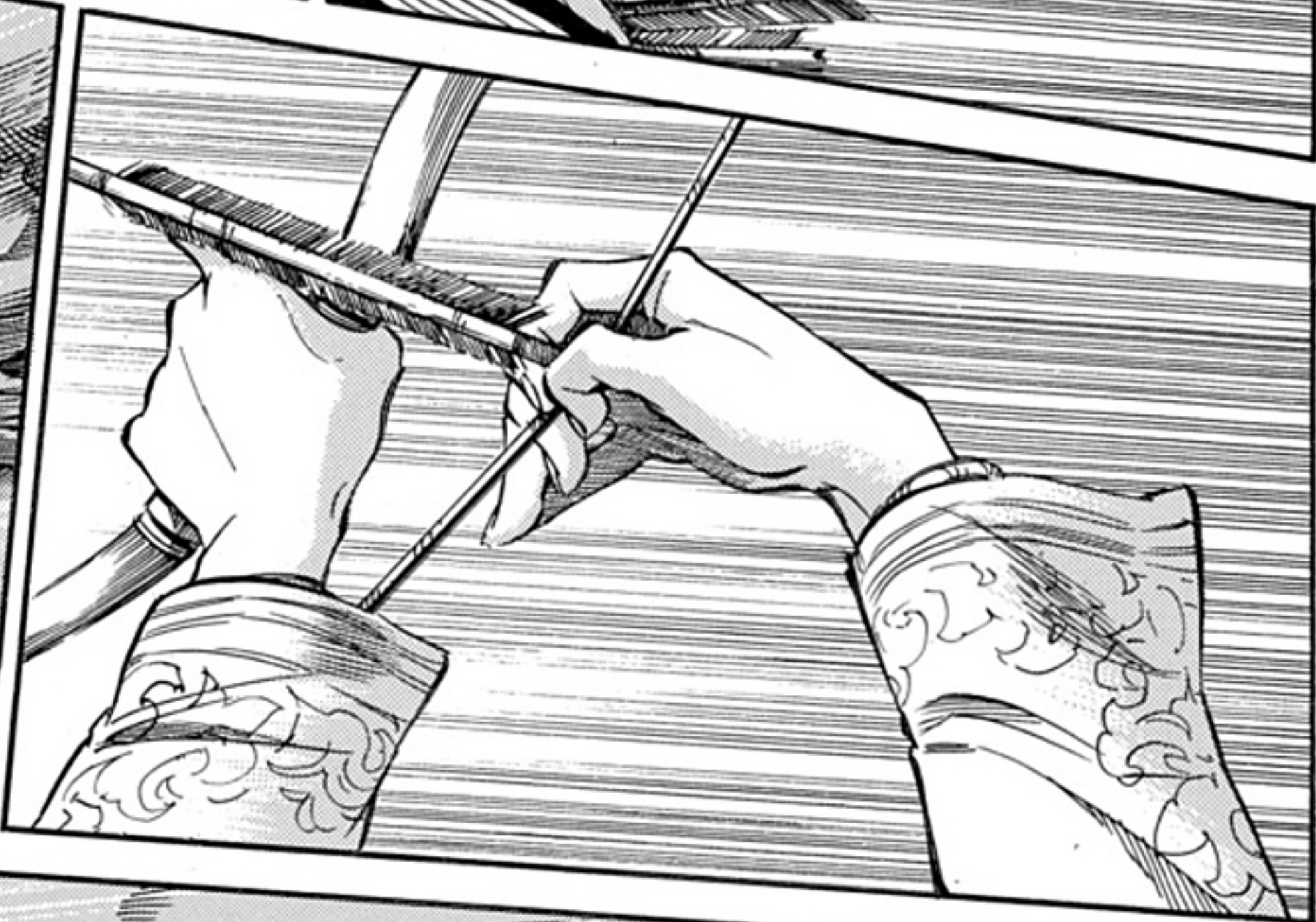
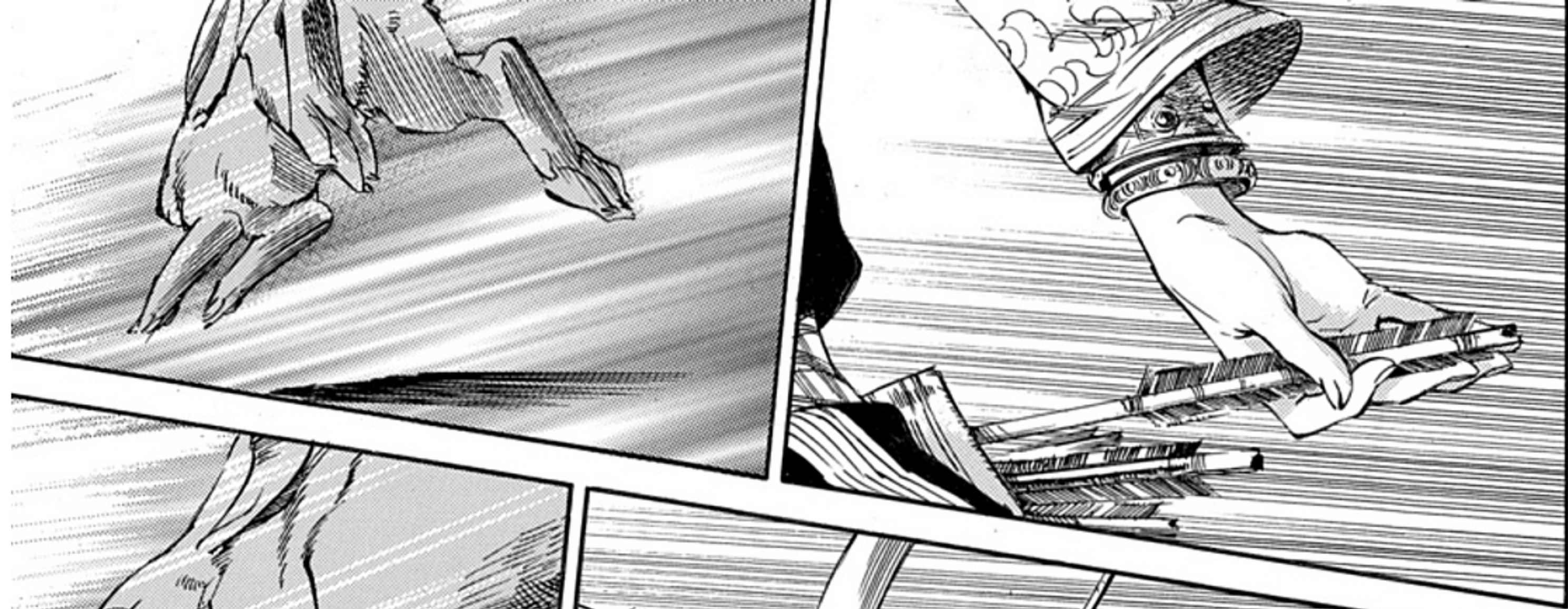
I'LL DO
MY BEST
TO MAKE
IT BACK IN
TIME...

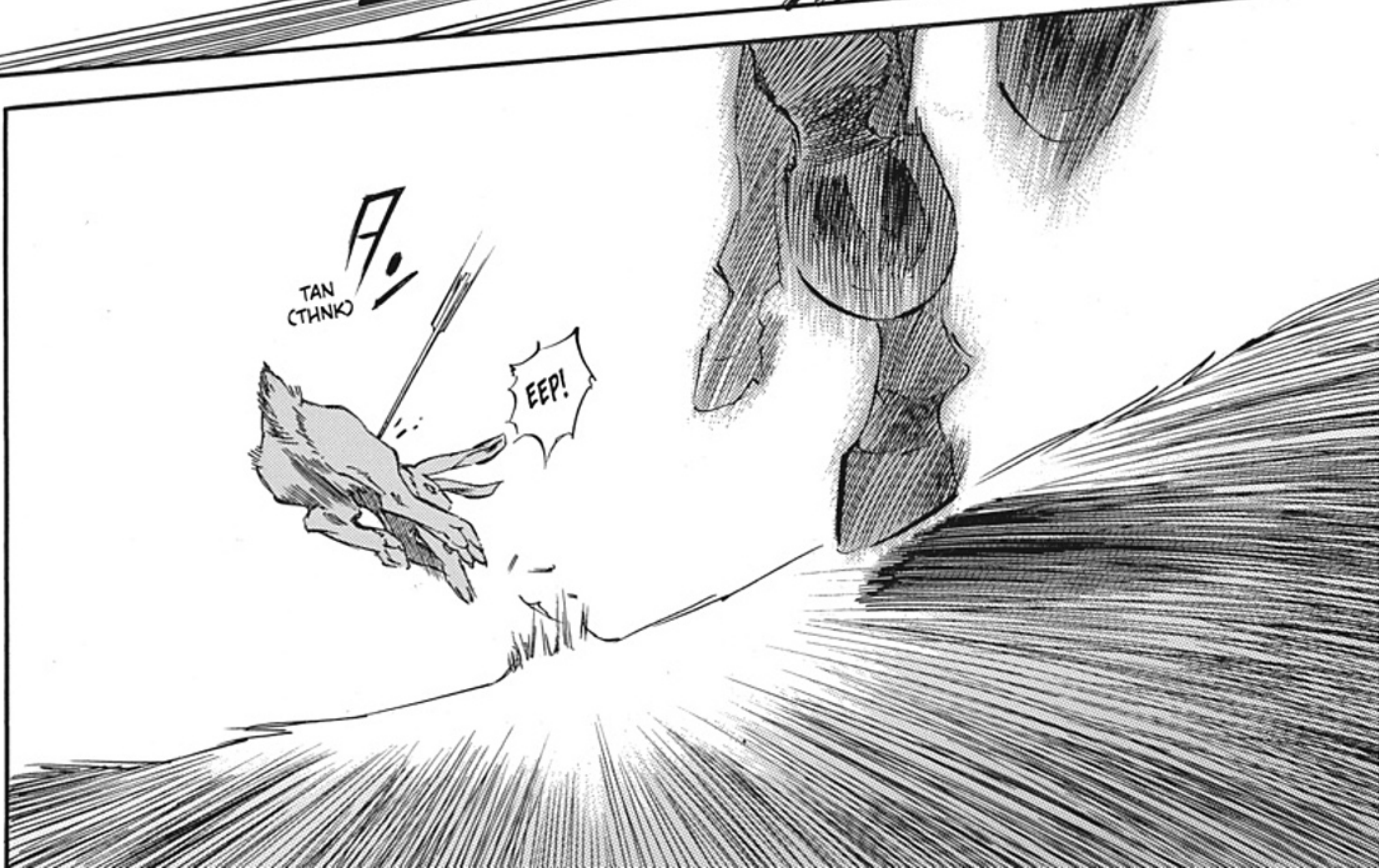


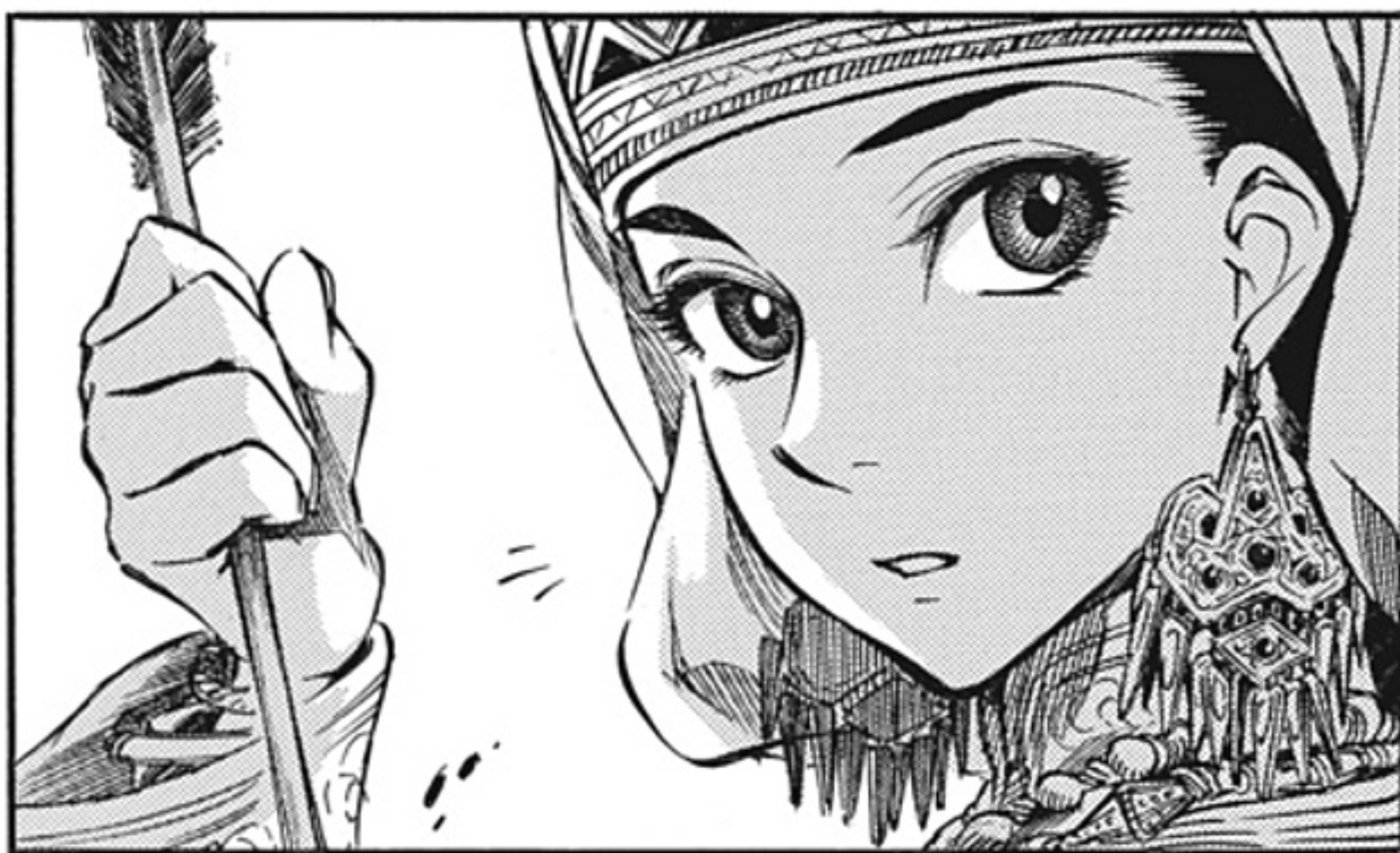
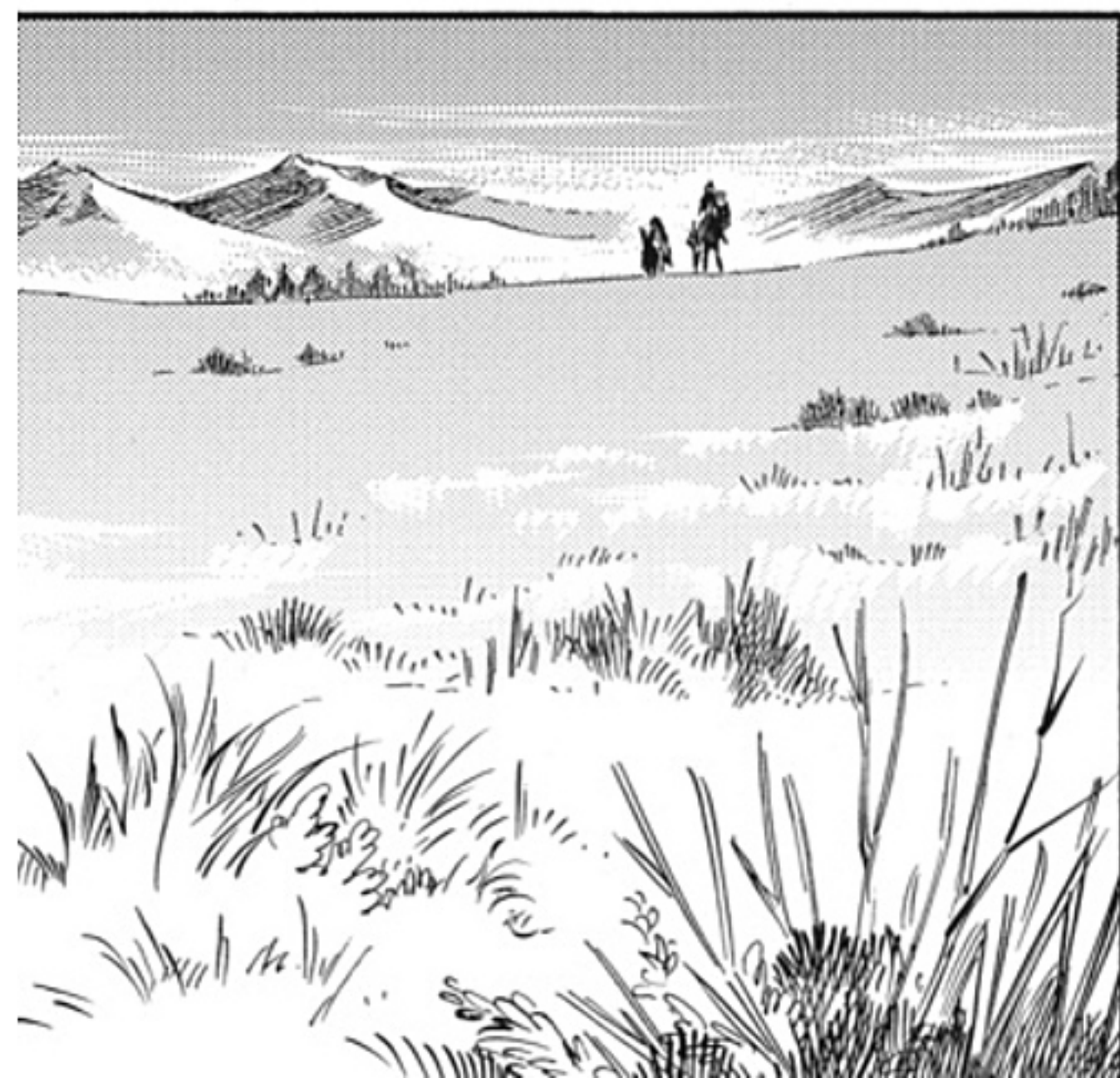


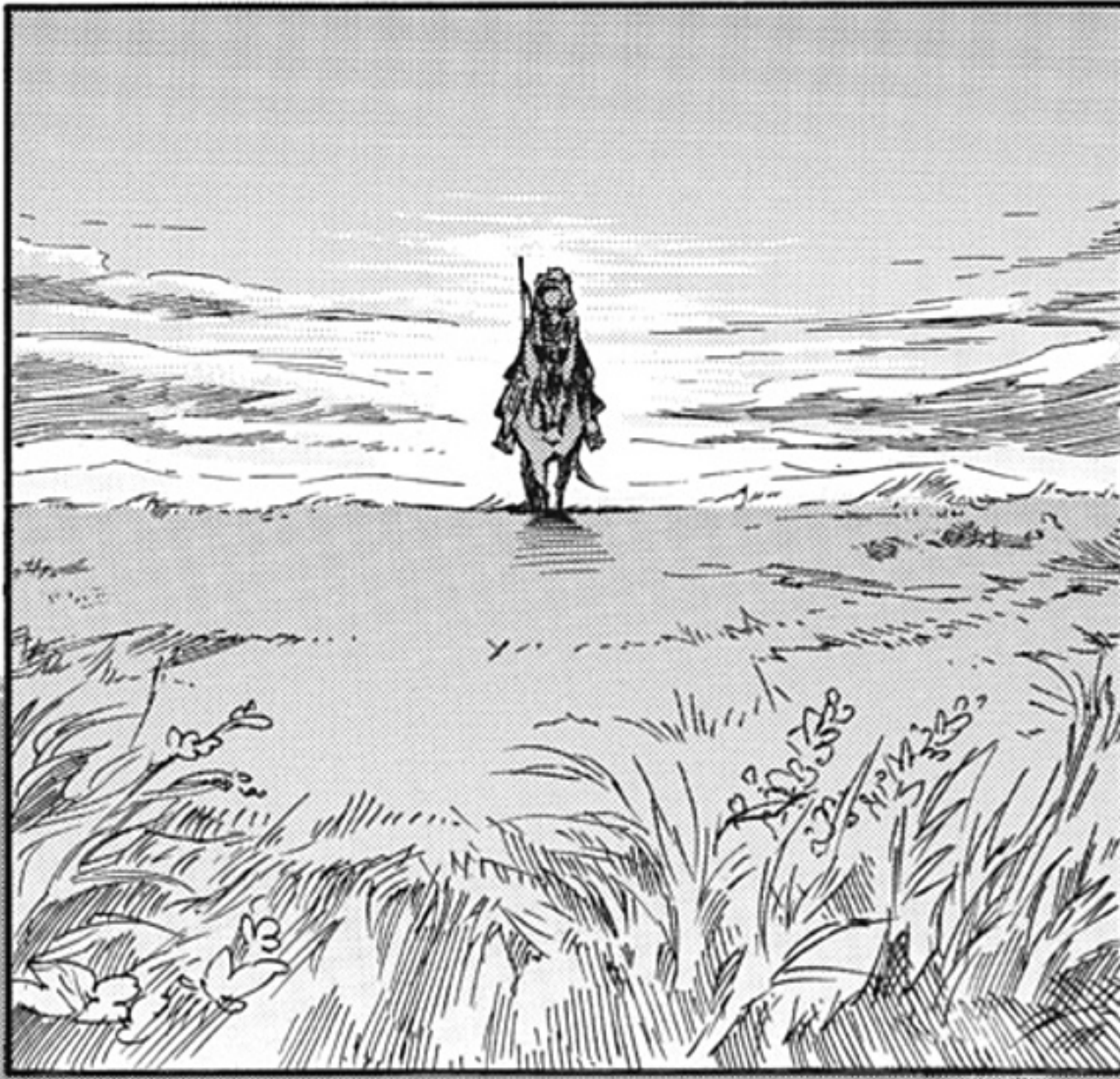




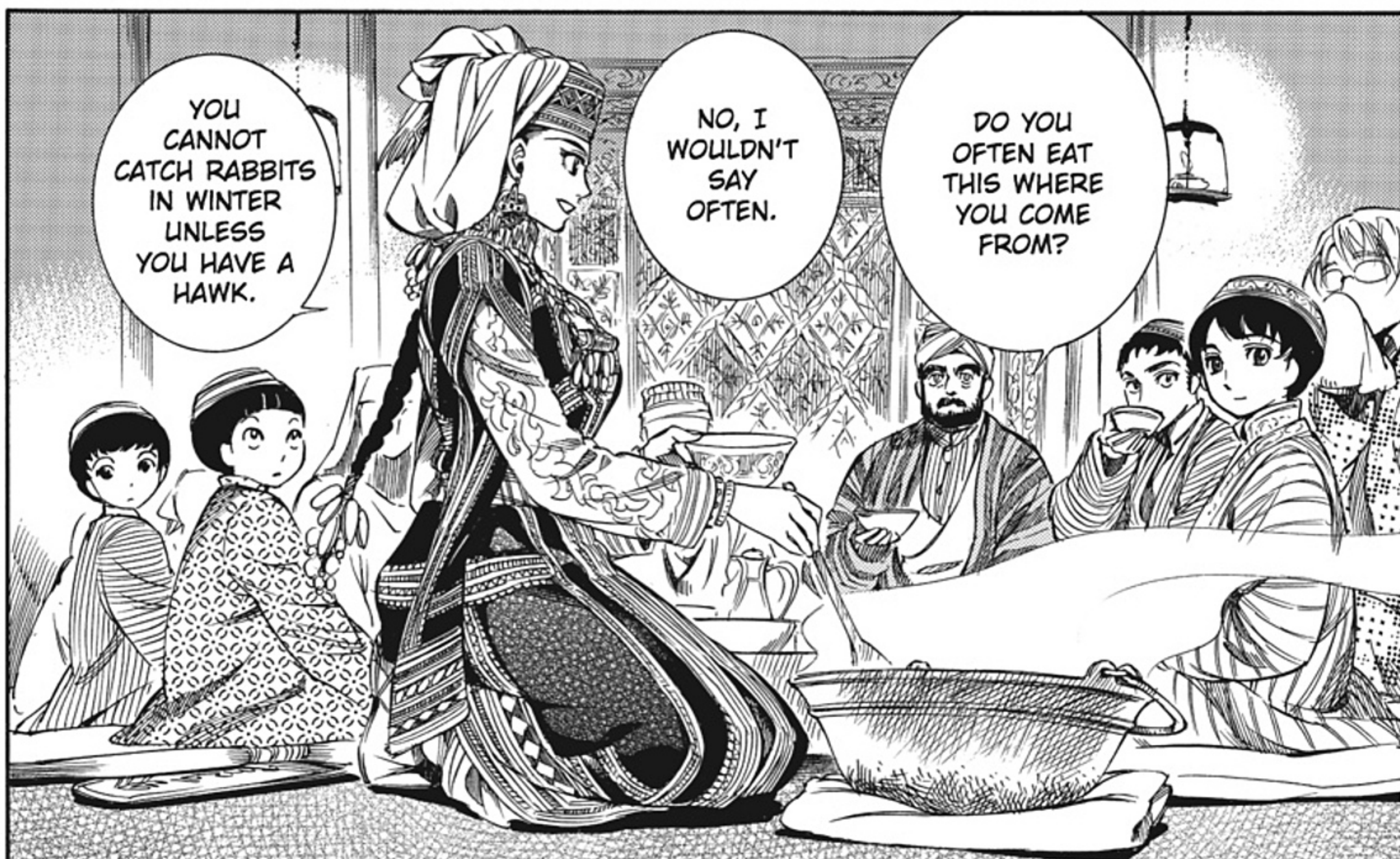
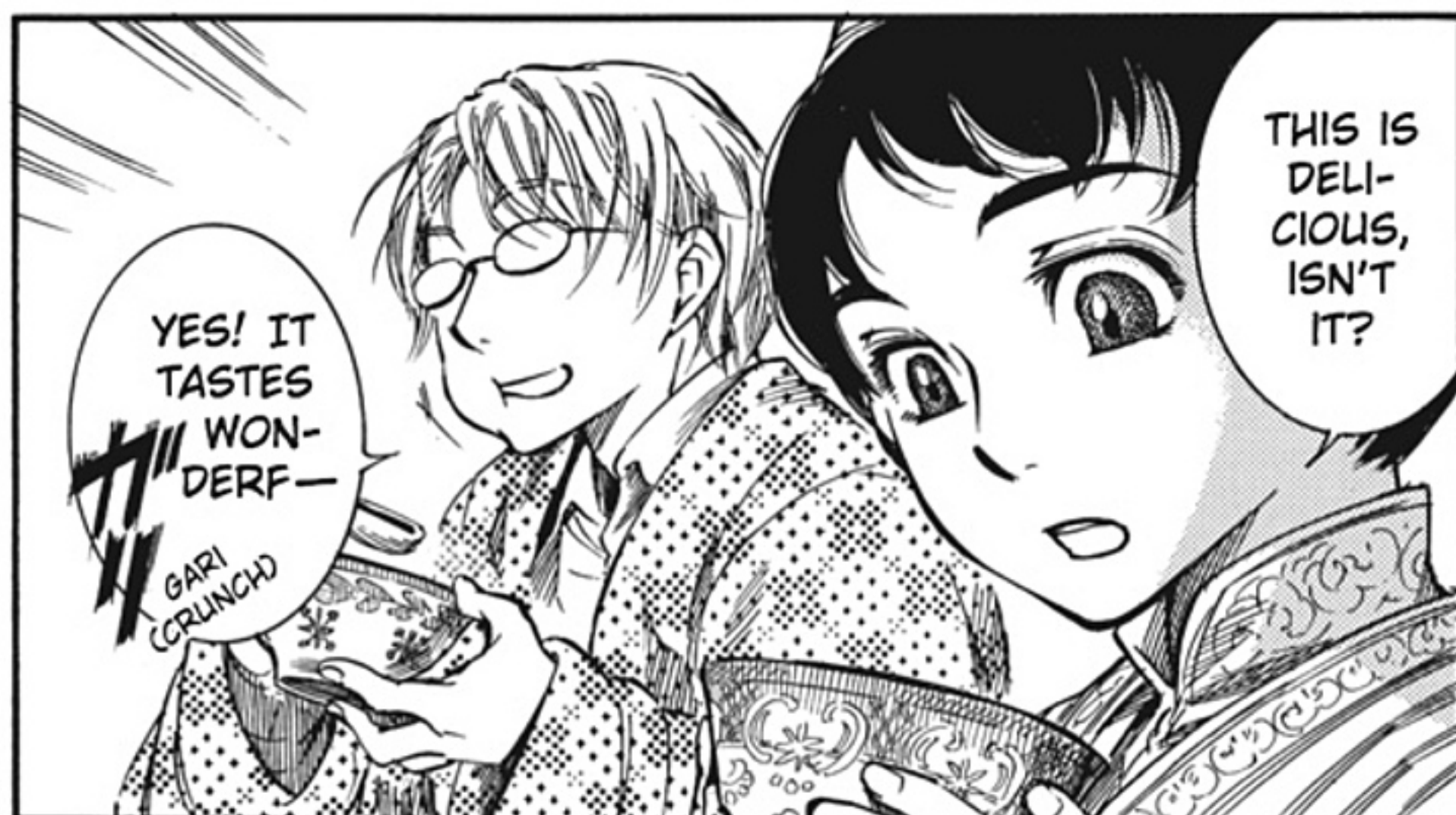
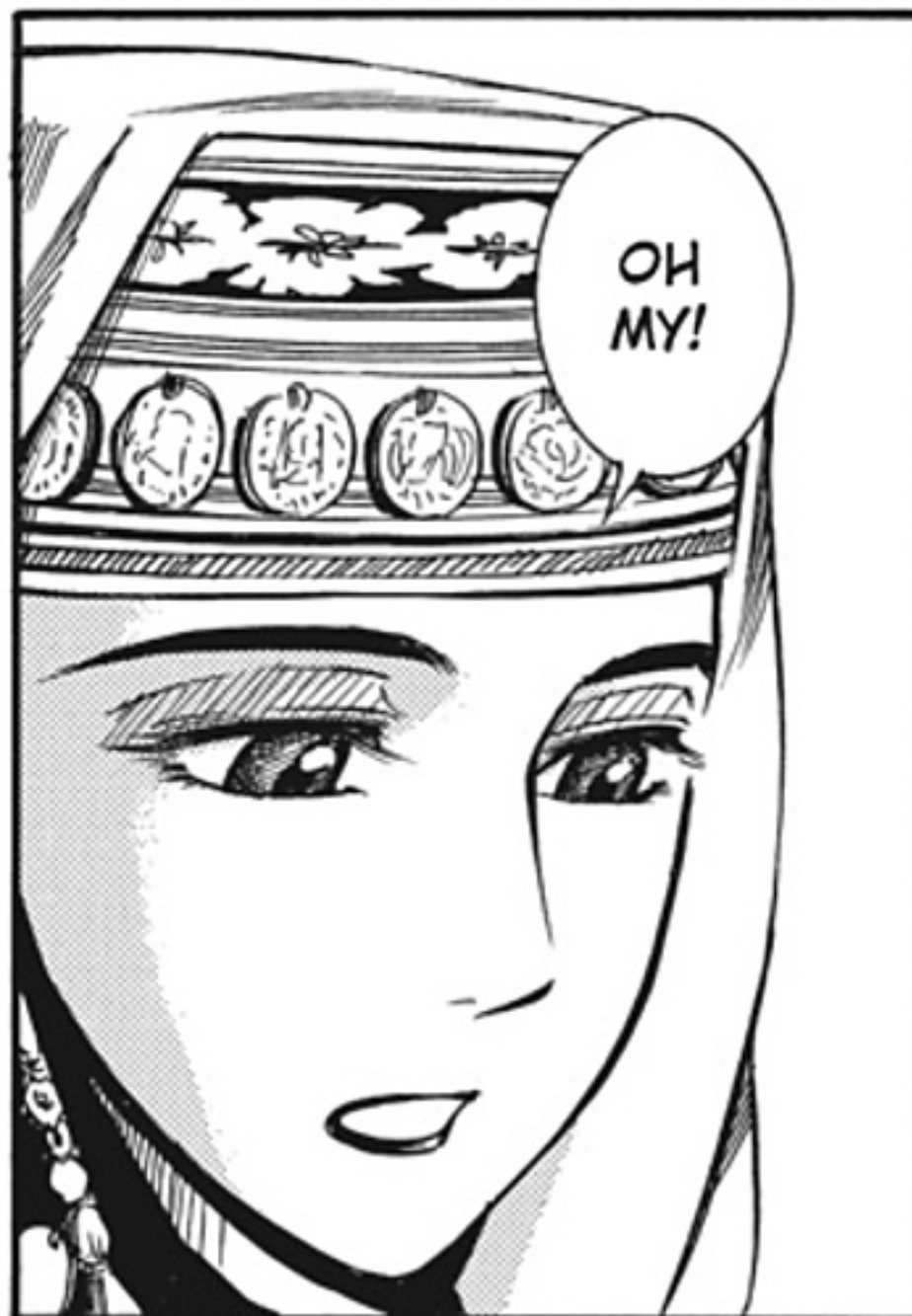














...I GOT SO WORRIED.



I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE SAFE.

WHEN I HEARD THAT THERE MIGHT BE WOLVES...



I HAVEN'T SO MUCH AS HELD A BOW IN SO LONG...

...IT SEEMS I'VE LOST MY TOUCH.

IT TOOK MUCH LONGER THAN I EXPECTED.



TO HEAR HIM TELL IT, A DOG BECOMES A WOLF, AND A SHEEP BECOMES A TIGER!

HA-HA-HA!

THAT'D BE CHAGAP, EH?



NOT VERY LADYLIKE, IS IT?

I'M SORRY.

MY DAUGHTER SIMPLY LOVES HAWKS.

HOW'S IT DONE!?



EXCUSE ME!

YOU CAN CATCH RABBITS WITH A HAWK!?



A HAWK SITTING ON YOUR ARM...



THEY DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD?

THEY HAVE HUMAN OWNERS?

IT TAKES A GOOD DEAL OF TRAINING FOR HANDLERS AND THEIR HAWKS TO BE ABLE TO HUNT.

YES.

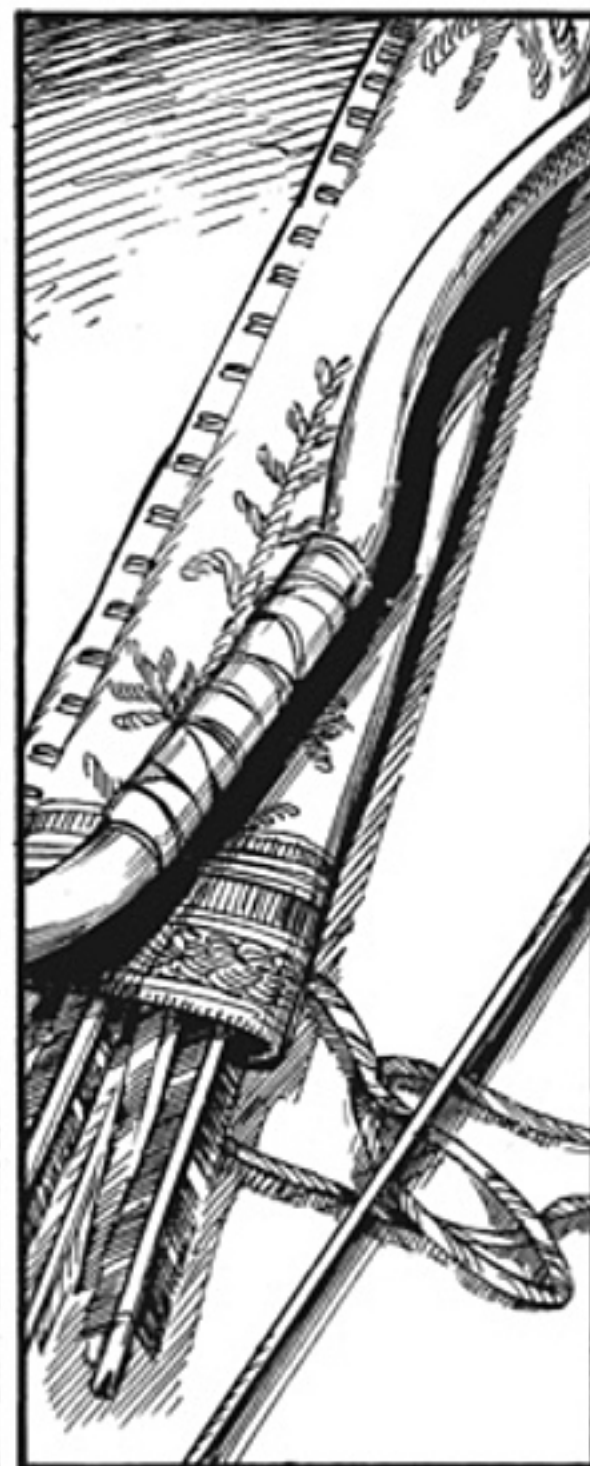
IF THEY'RE WELL TRAINED, YES.

THE HAWK SITS ON ITS OWNER'S ARM LIKE THIS.



CER-
TAINLY.

CAN I
TOUCH
IT?



YOU'D
BETTER
BE
CAREFUL!

DON'T
YOU
DARE
BREAK
IT!!



NO!
YOU
HOLD
IT THIS
WAY!

LET ME
SEE!
LET ME
SEE!

IT'S
STIFF.

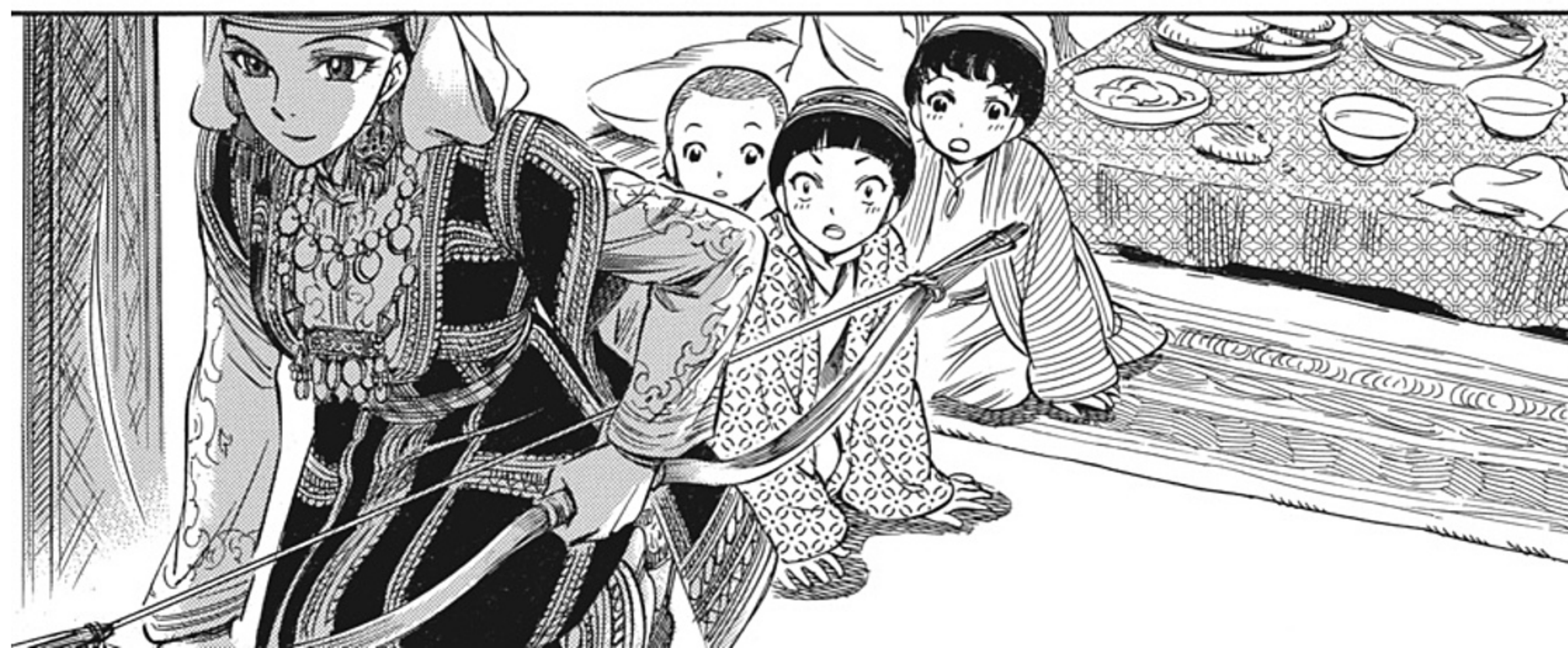
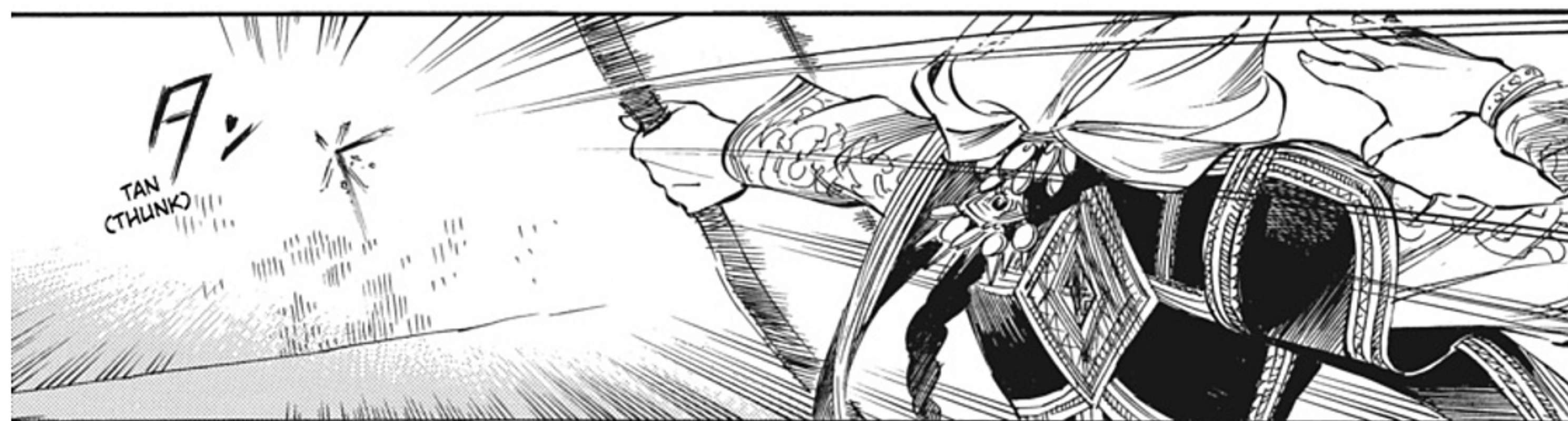
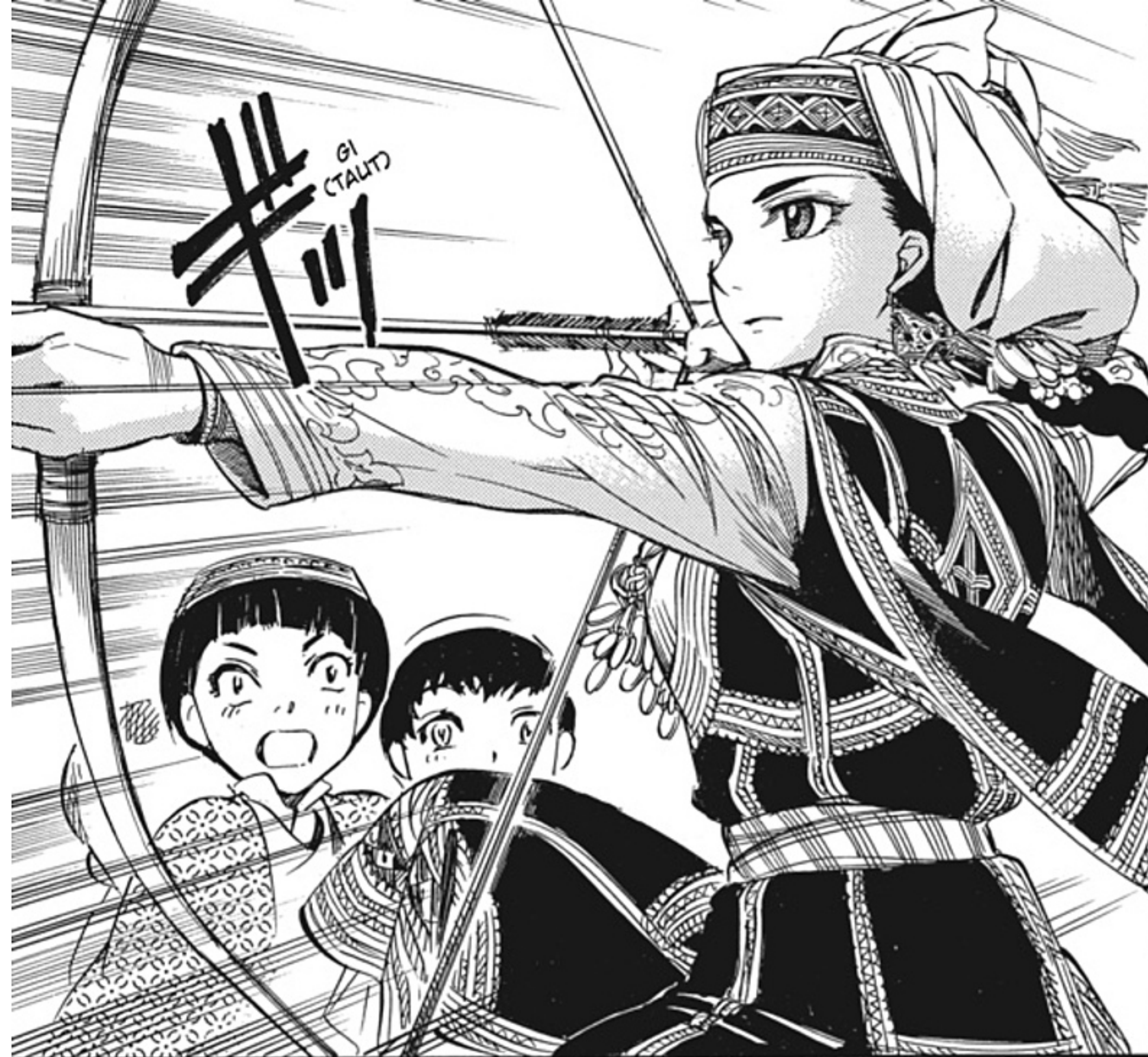


GOOD.
NOW COME
BACK
HERE.



MARK A
SPOT ON THE
WALL OVER
THERE, AND
THEN COME
BACK.

IF YOU
DON'T
MIND...





HUNTING
FLEEING
PREY...

LONG
AGO WE
ALL WERE
ABLE TO
DO THAT.



NOW
THAT IS
IMPRES-
SIVE.

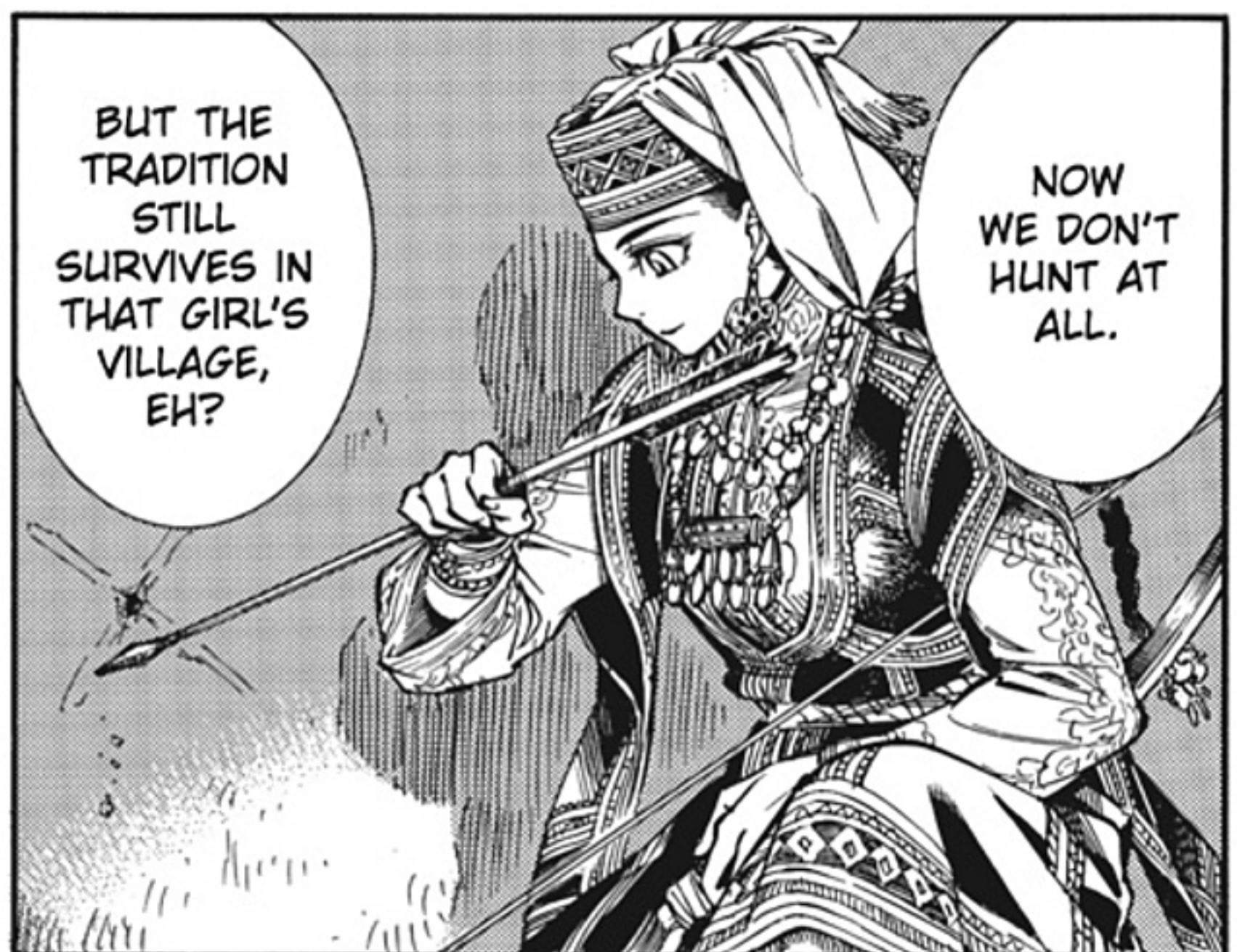
SHE
CAN DO
THAT FROM
HORSE-
BACK?



WANT
ONE!

I
WANT
ONE
TOO!!

FATHER,
I WANT
A BOW
TOO!!



BUT THE
TRADITION
STILL
SURVIVES IN
THAT GIRL'S
VILLAGE,
EH?

NOW
WE DON'T
HUNT AT
ALL.



WHAT
SAY
YOU?

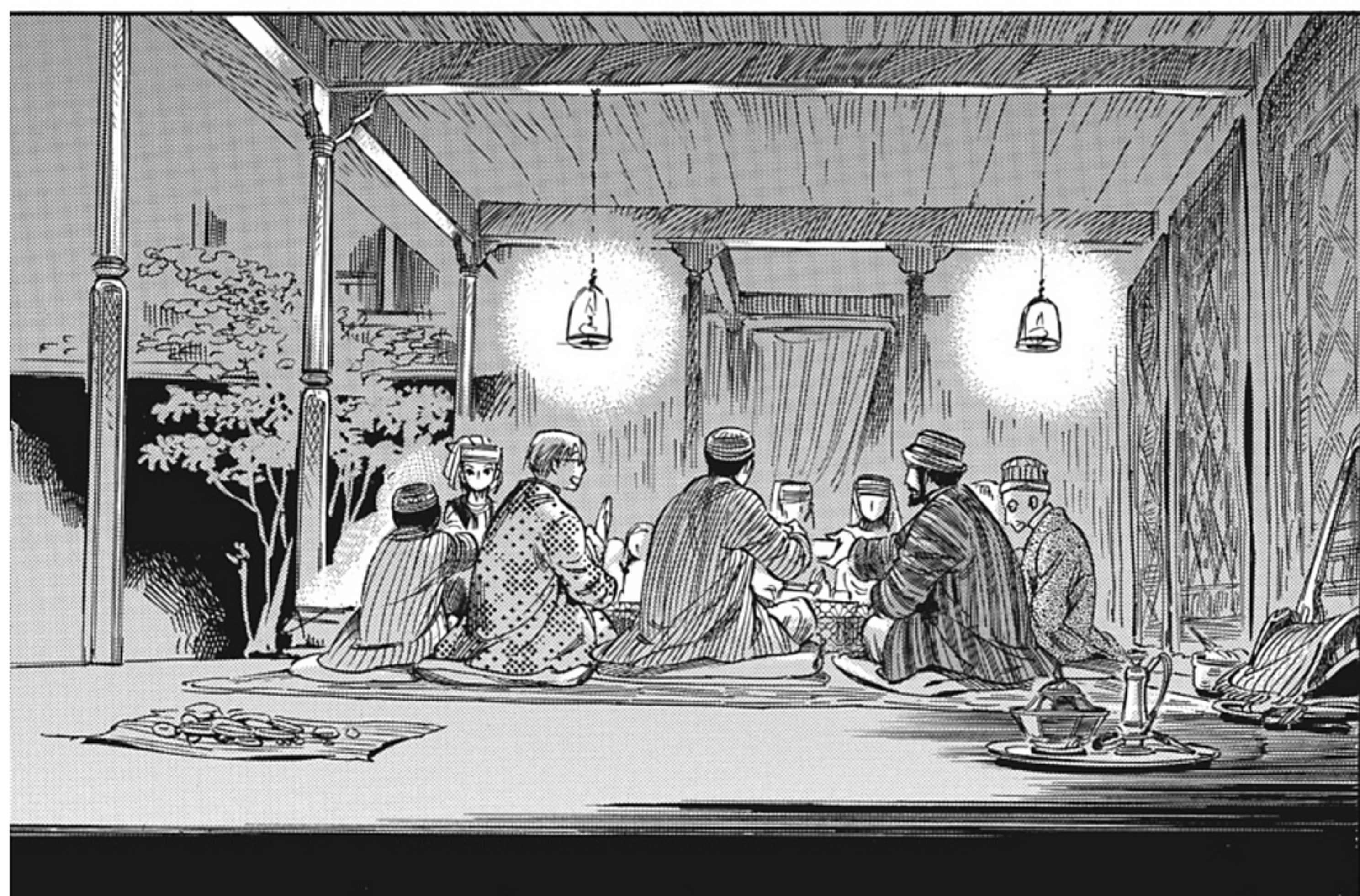
AMIR...

...ARE
YOU
WILLING
TO TEACH
THEM?

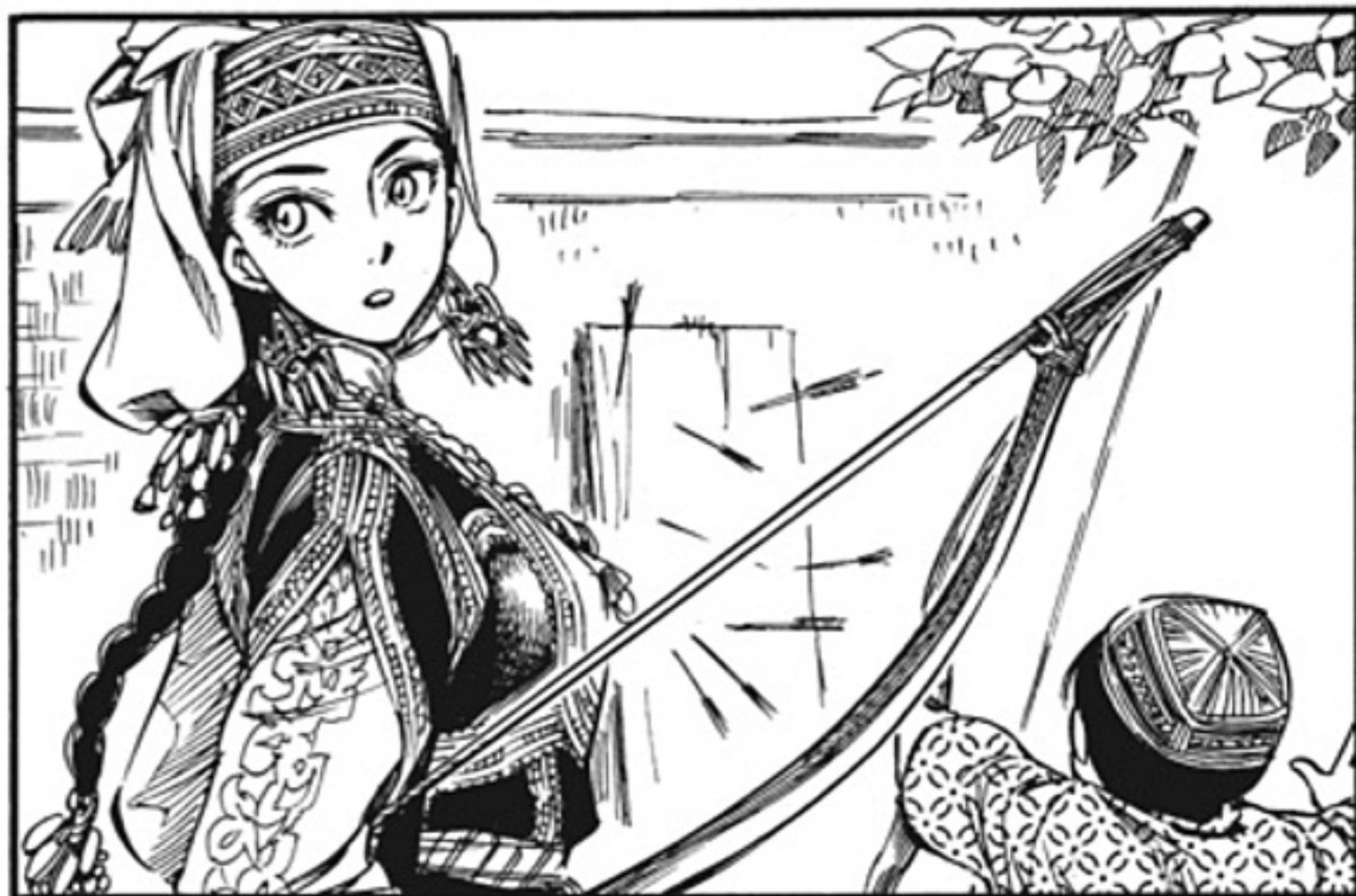
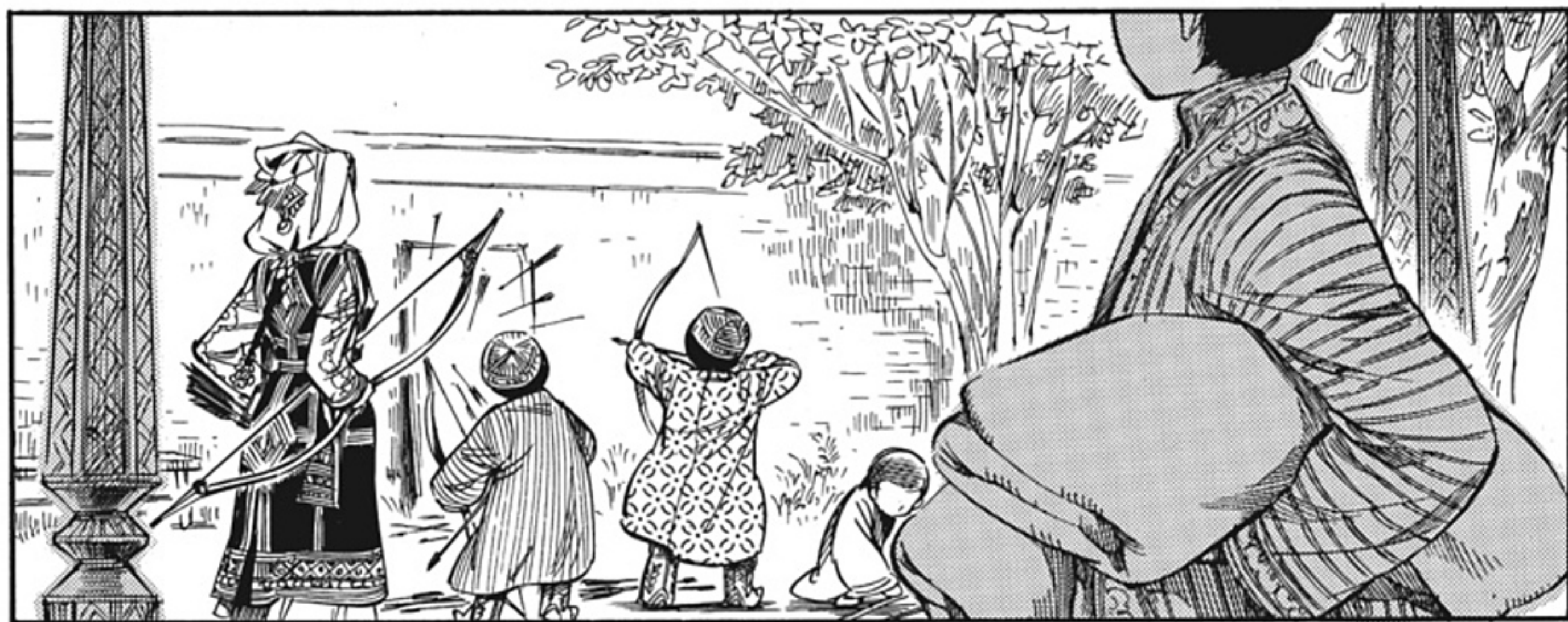


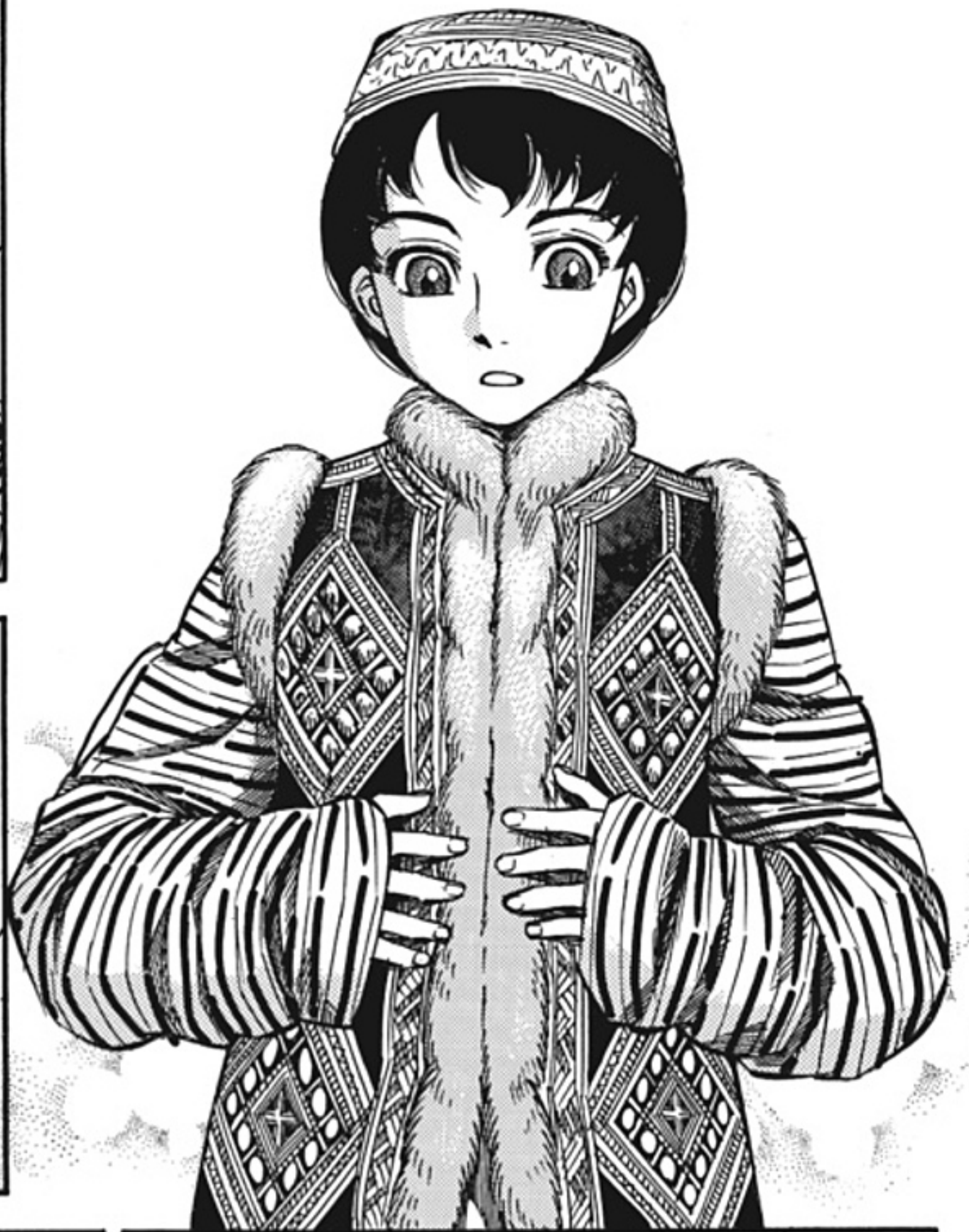
WELL...

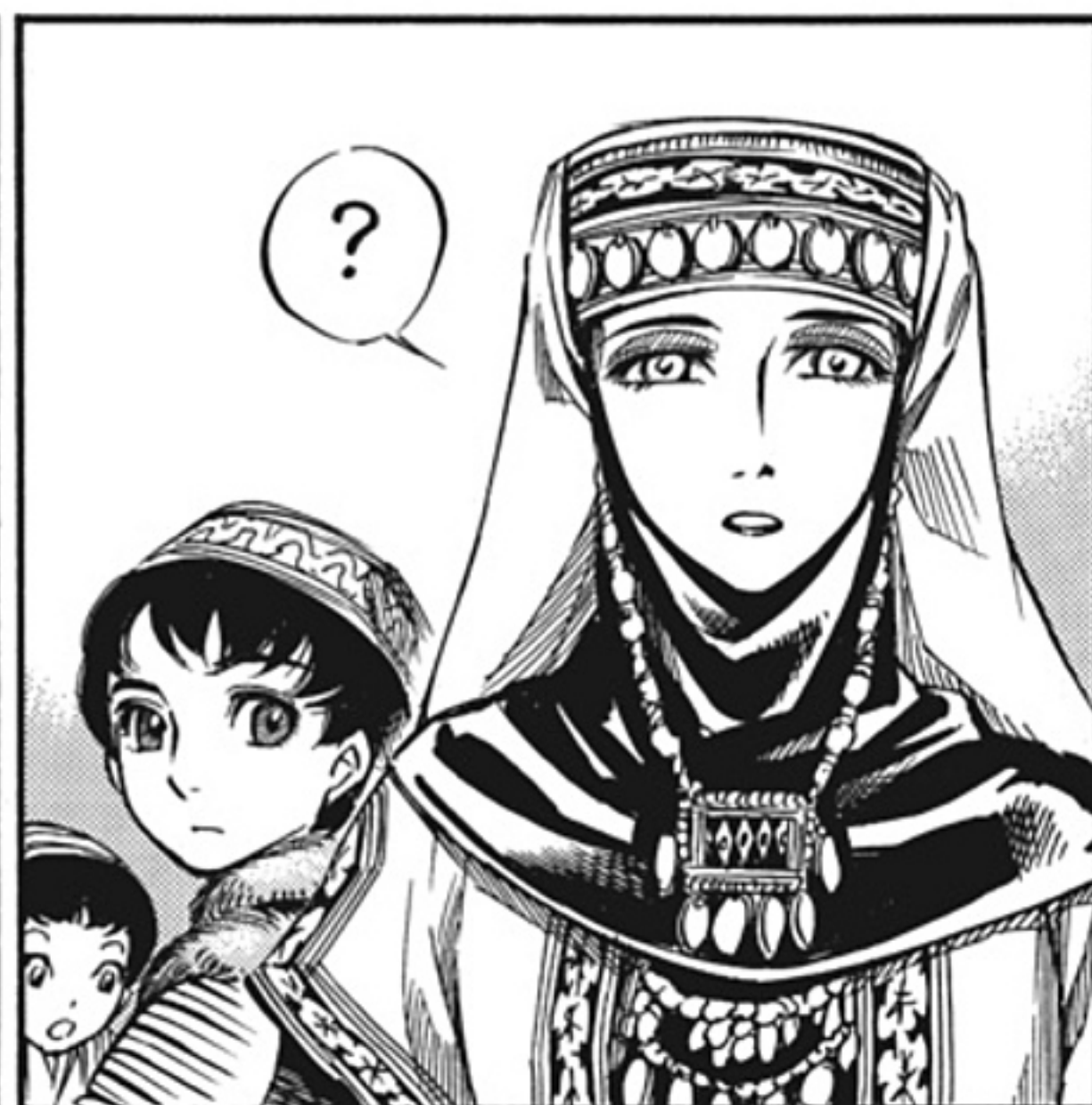
...I
SUPPOSE
IT
WOULDN'T
DO ANY
HARM.













AAAAAH!!



PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

I HADN'T REALIZED JUST HOW DIRTY MY CLOTHES WERE!



CLOTHES! FIRST PUT ON SOME CLOTHES!

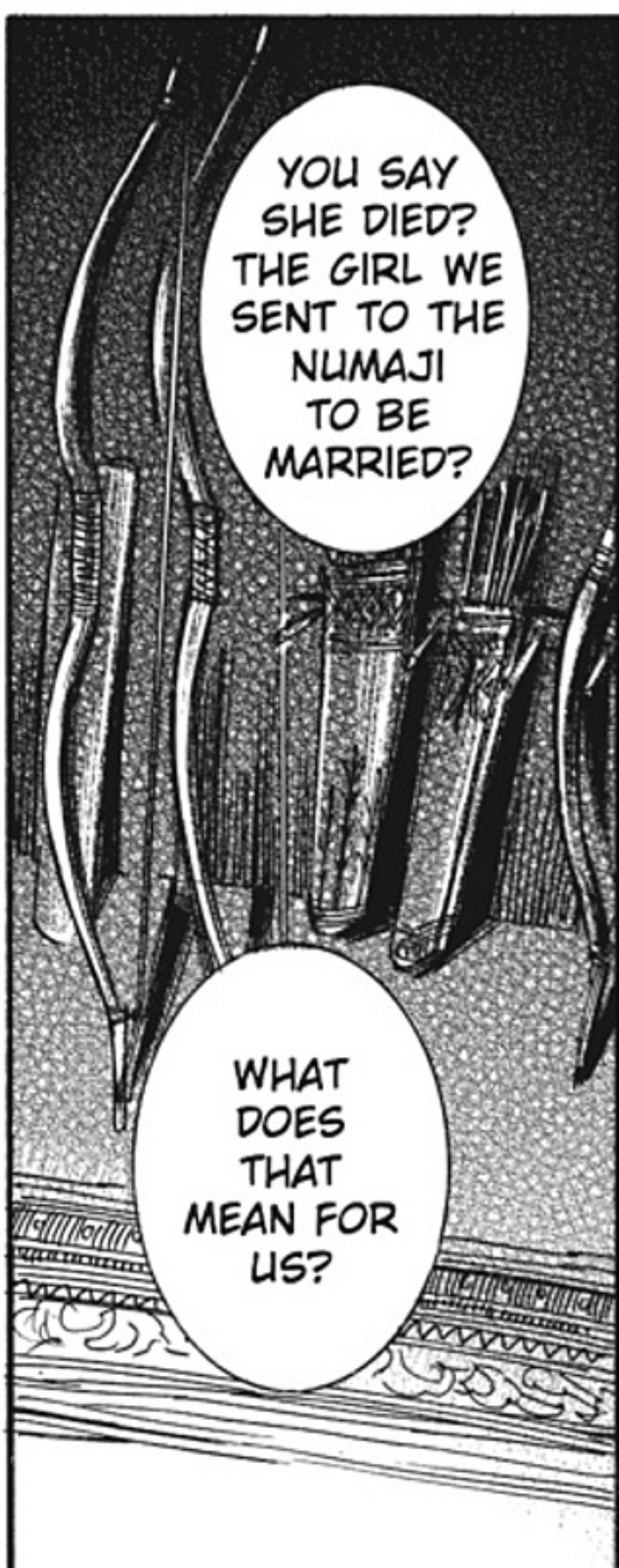
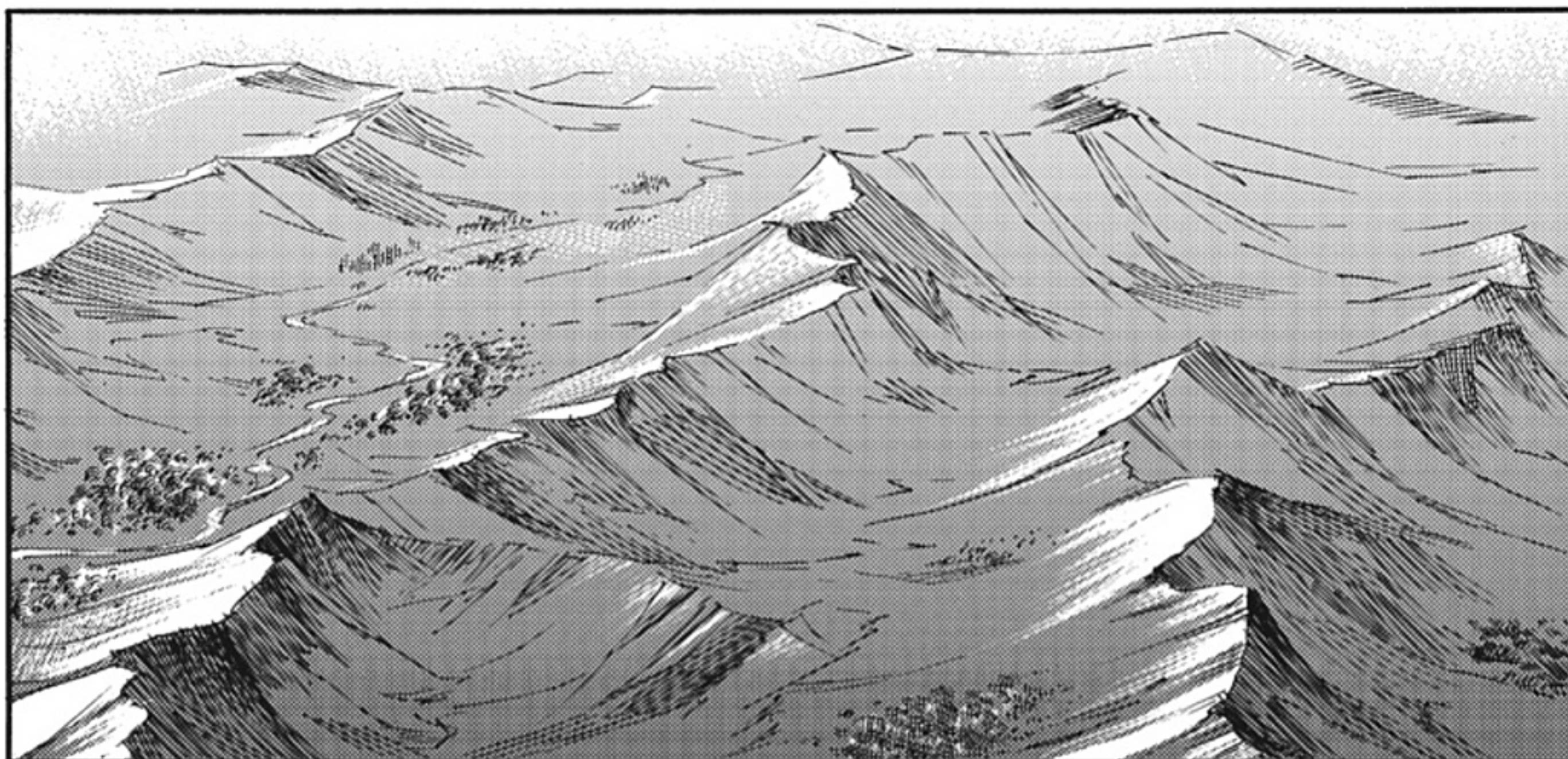
DON'T YOU DARE LOOK!!



NO! I NEVER MEANT TO IMPLY THAT YOUR CLOTHES WERE DIRTY!!

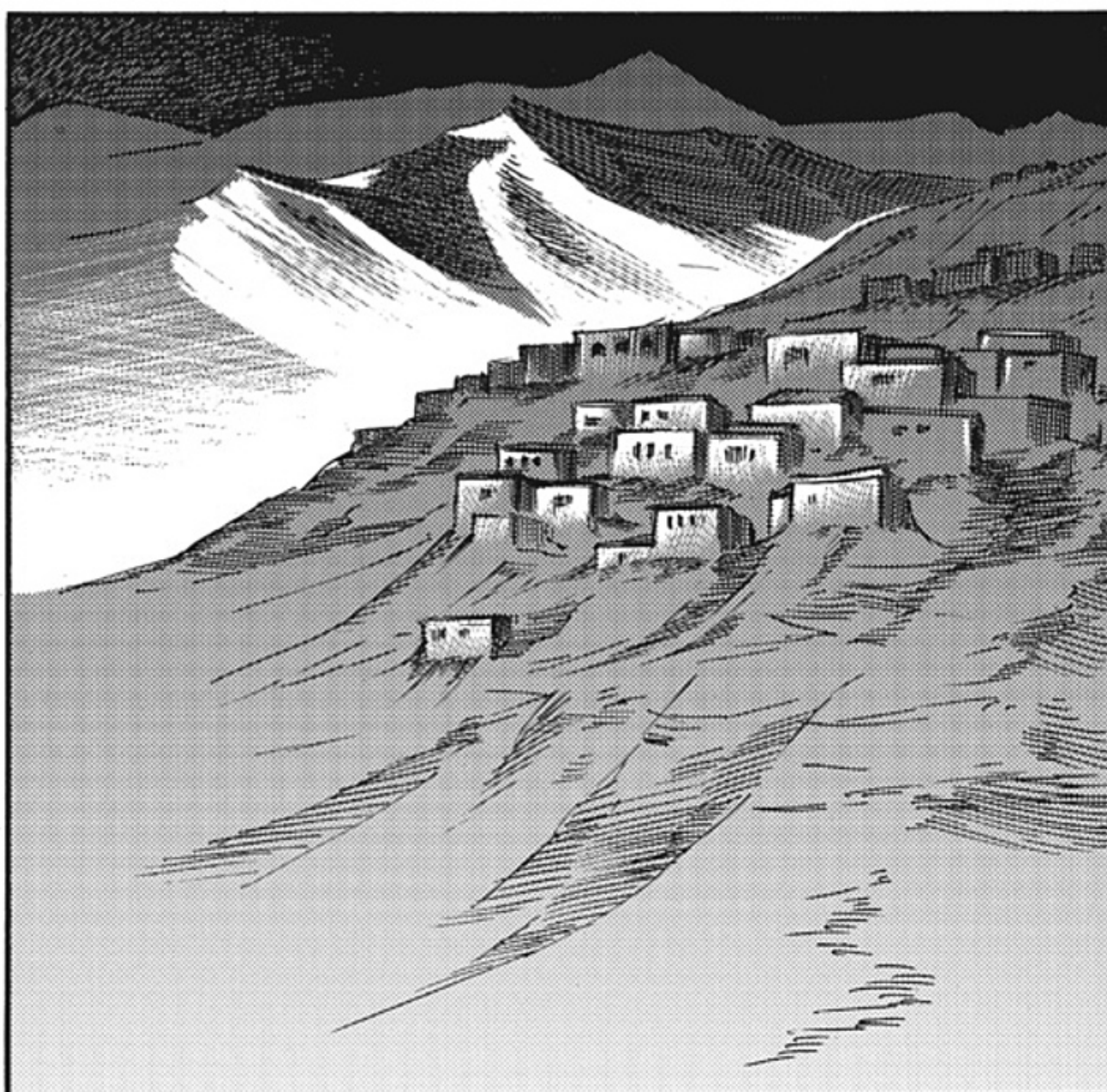
I'LL GO WASH THEM IMMEDIATELY!!

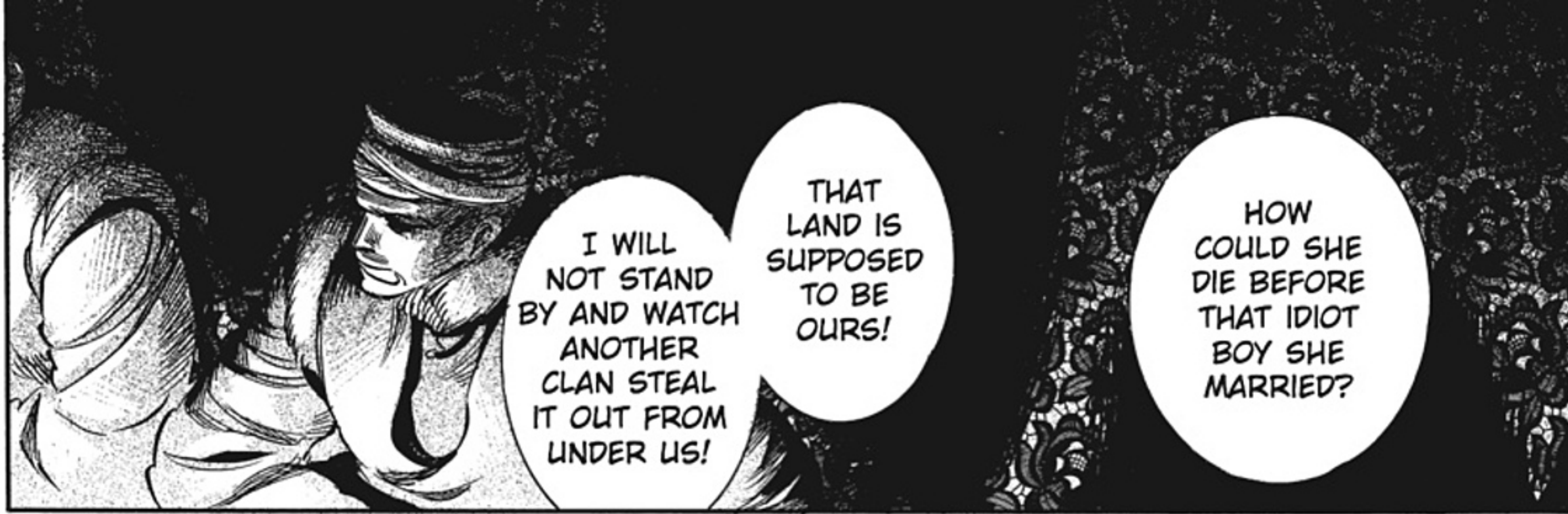
AMIR! AMIR!



YOU SAY
SHE DIED?
THE GIRL WE
SENT TO THE
NUMAJI
TO BE
MARRIED?

WHAT
DOES
THAT
MEAN FOR
US?

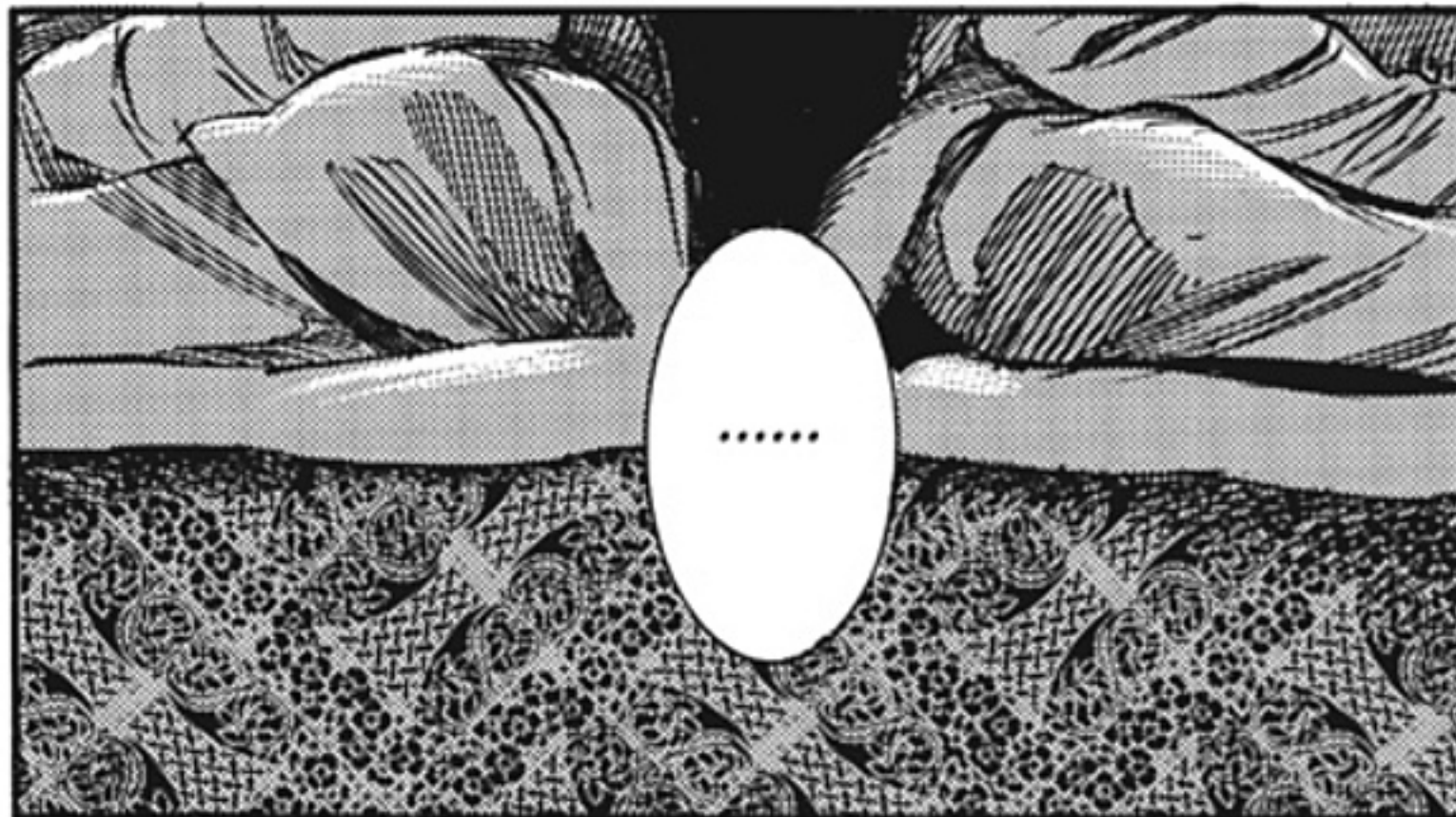




I WILL NOT STAND BY AND WATCH ANOTHER CLAN STEAL IT OUT FROM UNDER US!

THAT LAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE OURS!

HOW COULD SHE DIE BEFORE THAT IDIOT BOY SHE MARRIED?



.....



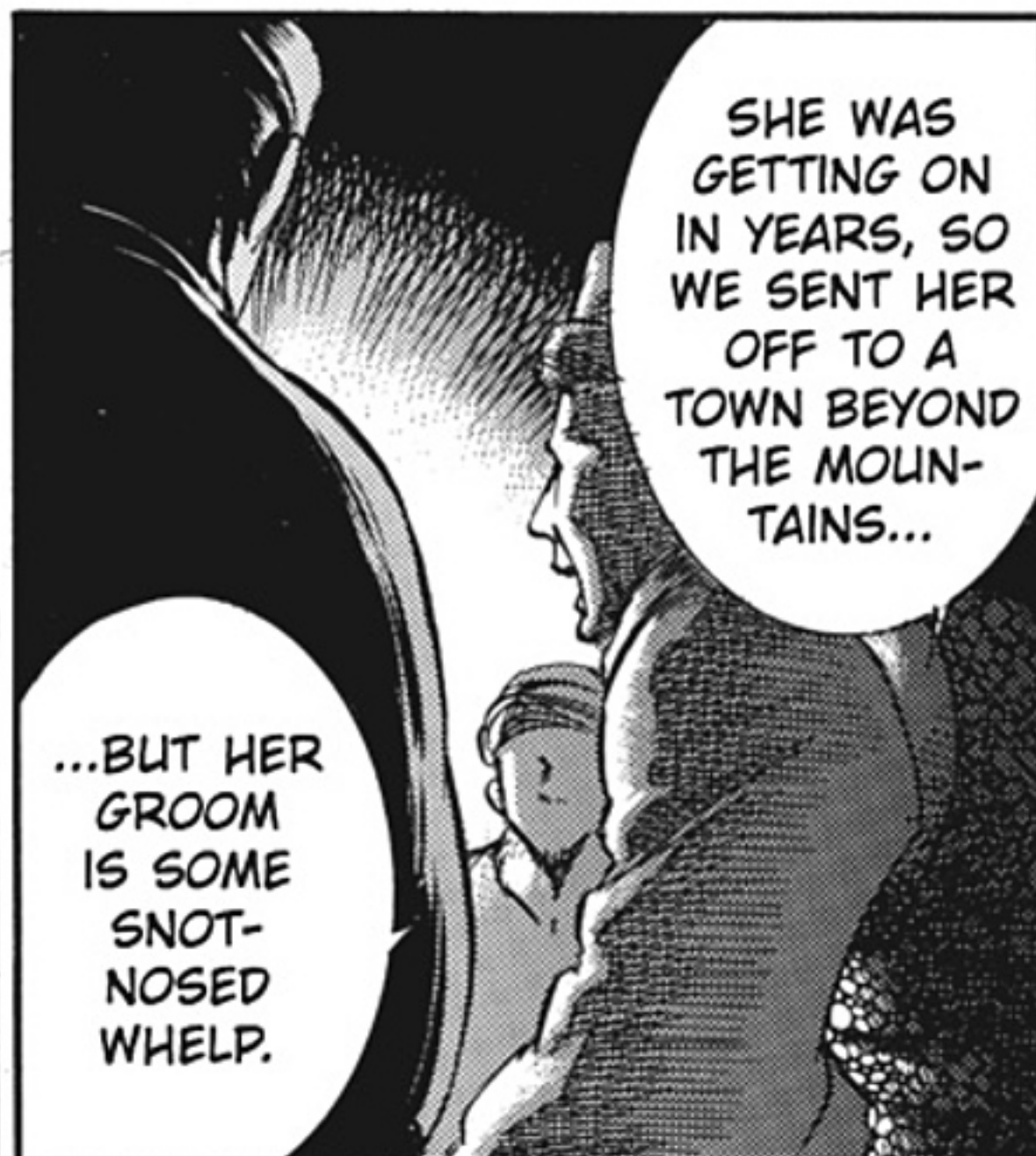
THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER GIRL WE CAN OFFER INSTEAD.

WHO ELSE DO WE HAVE?



WE NEED AMIR!

GO BRING AMIR BACK!

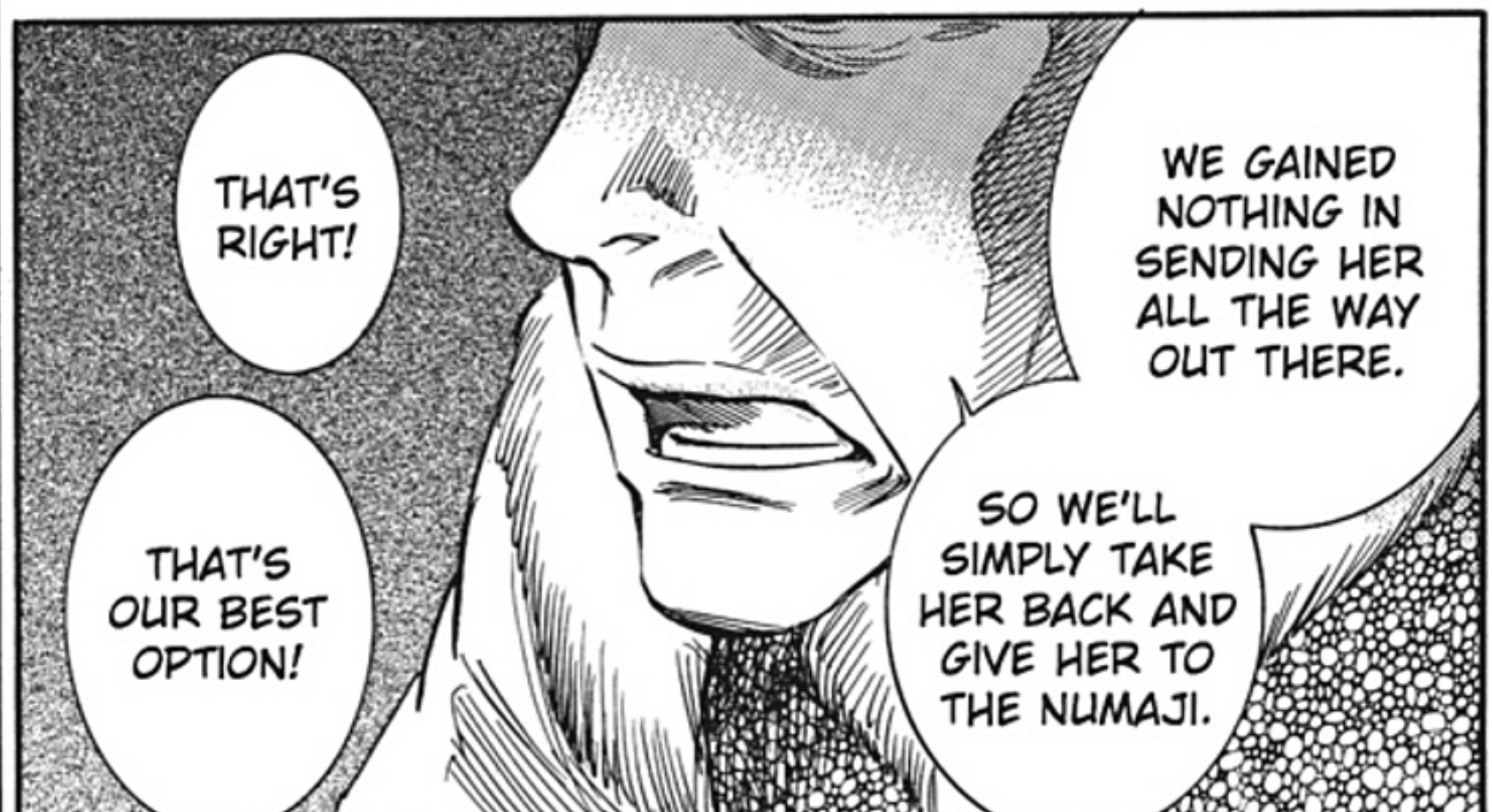


...BUT HER GROOM IS SOME SNOT-NOSED WHELP.

SHE WAS GETTING ON IN YEARS, SO WE SENT HER OFF TO A TOWN BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS...



IT HAS TO BE AMIR.

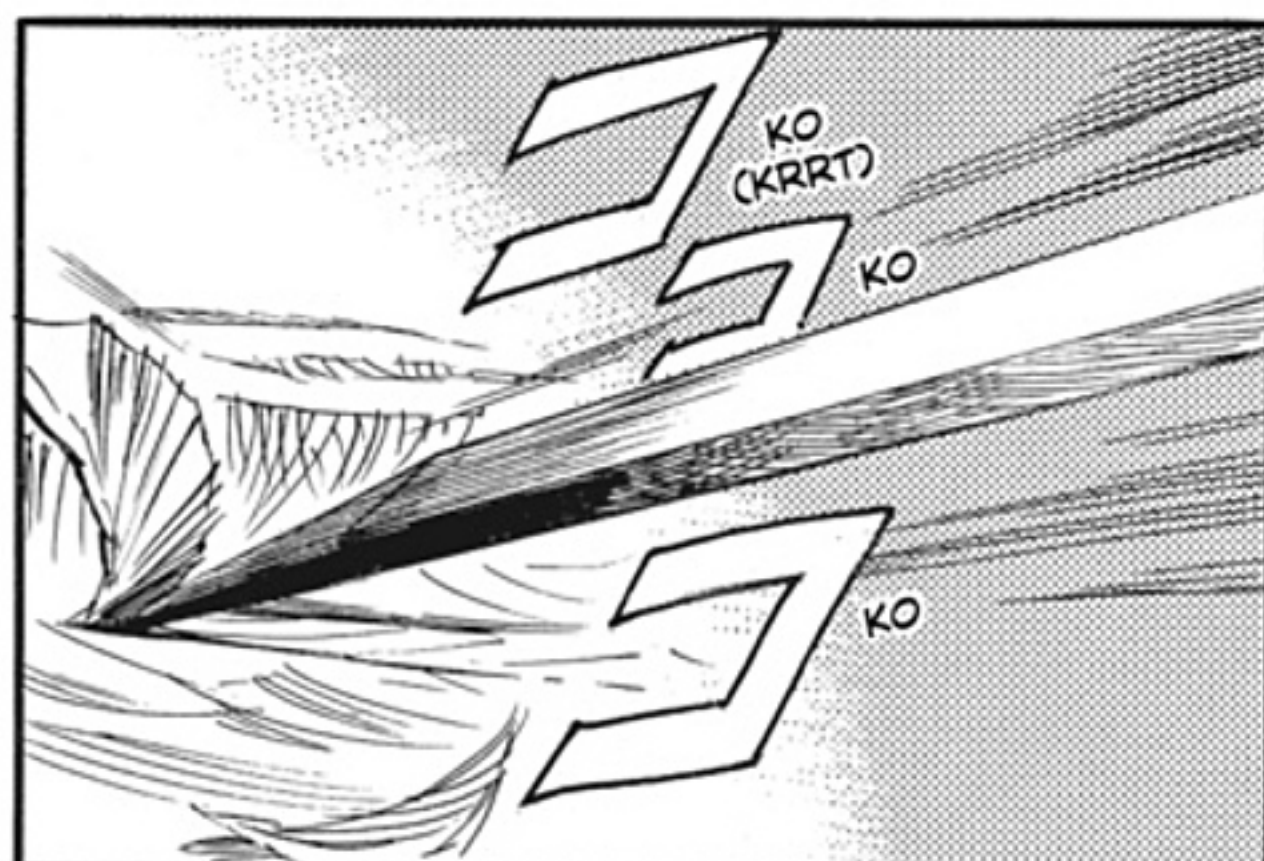
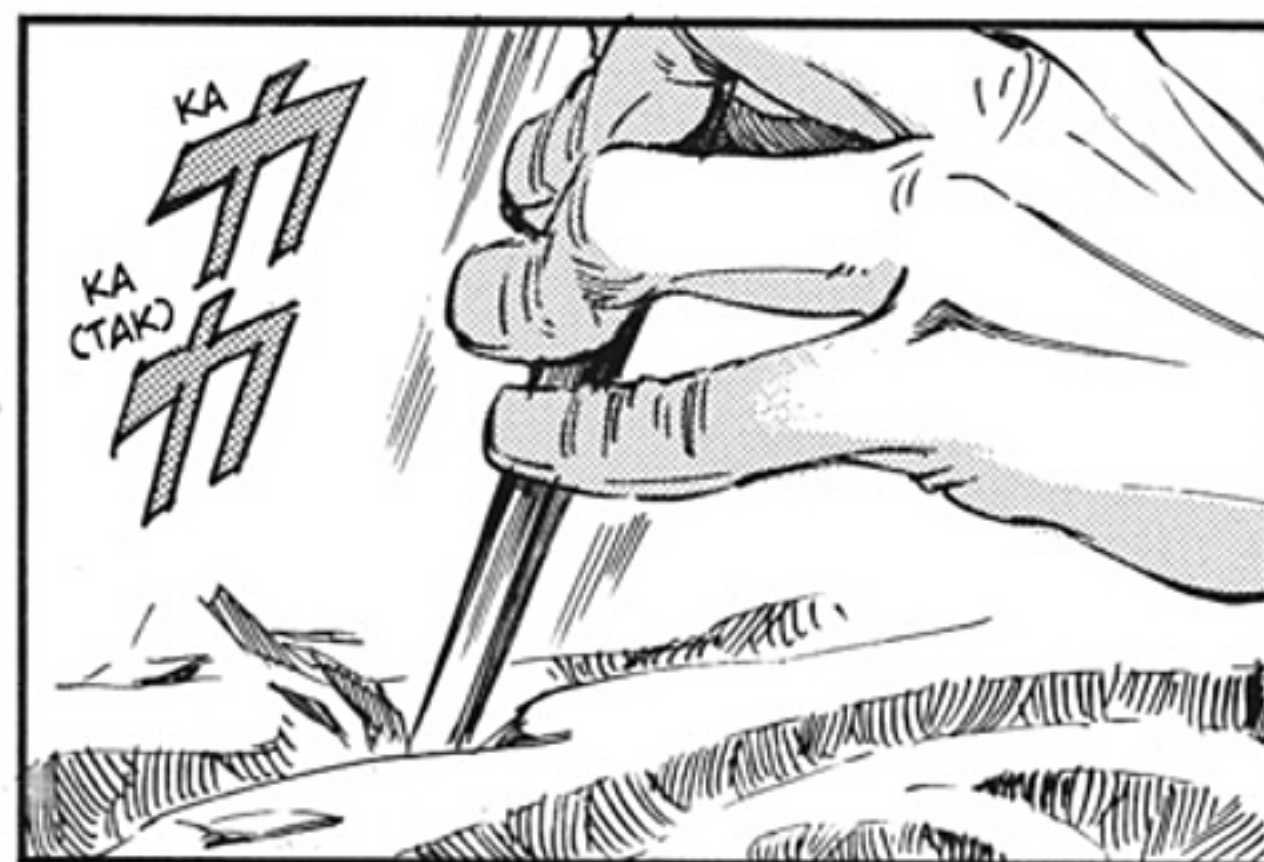


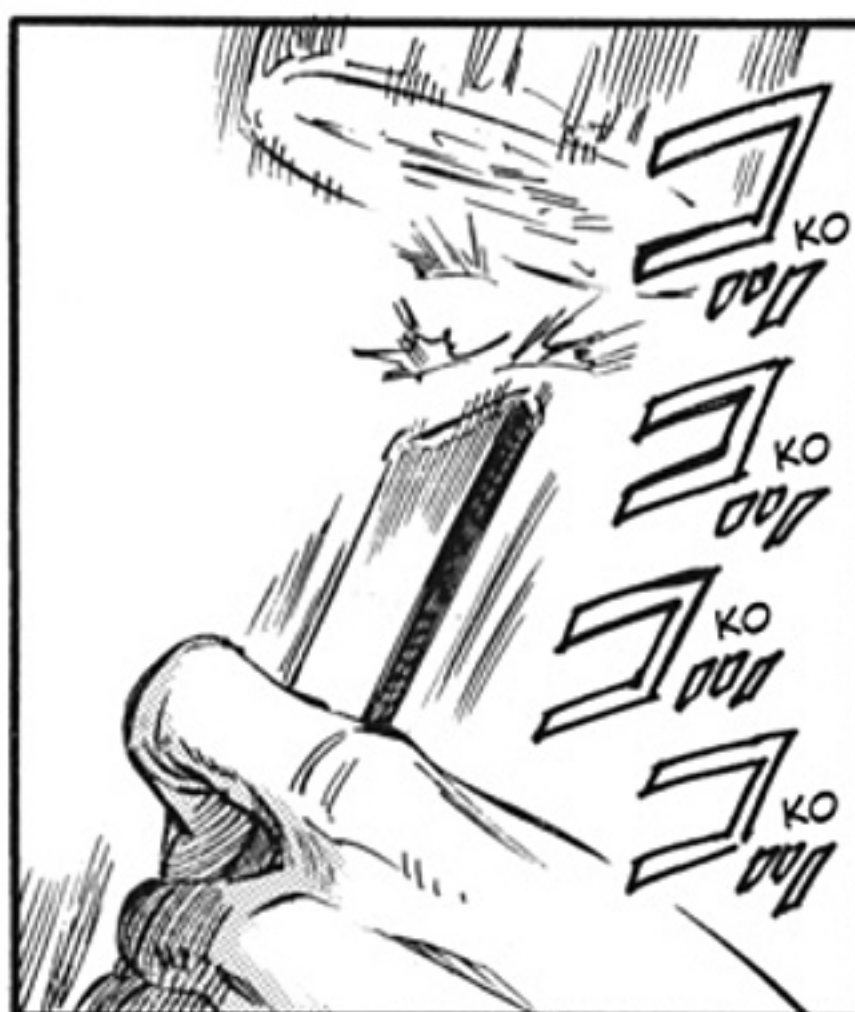
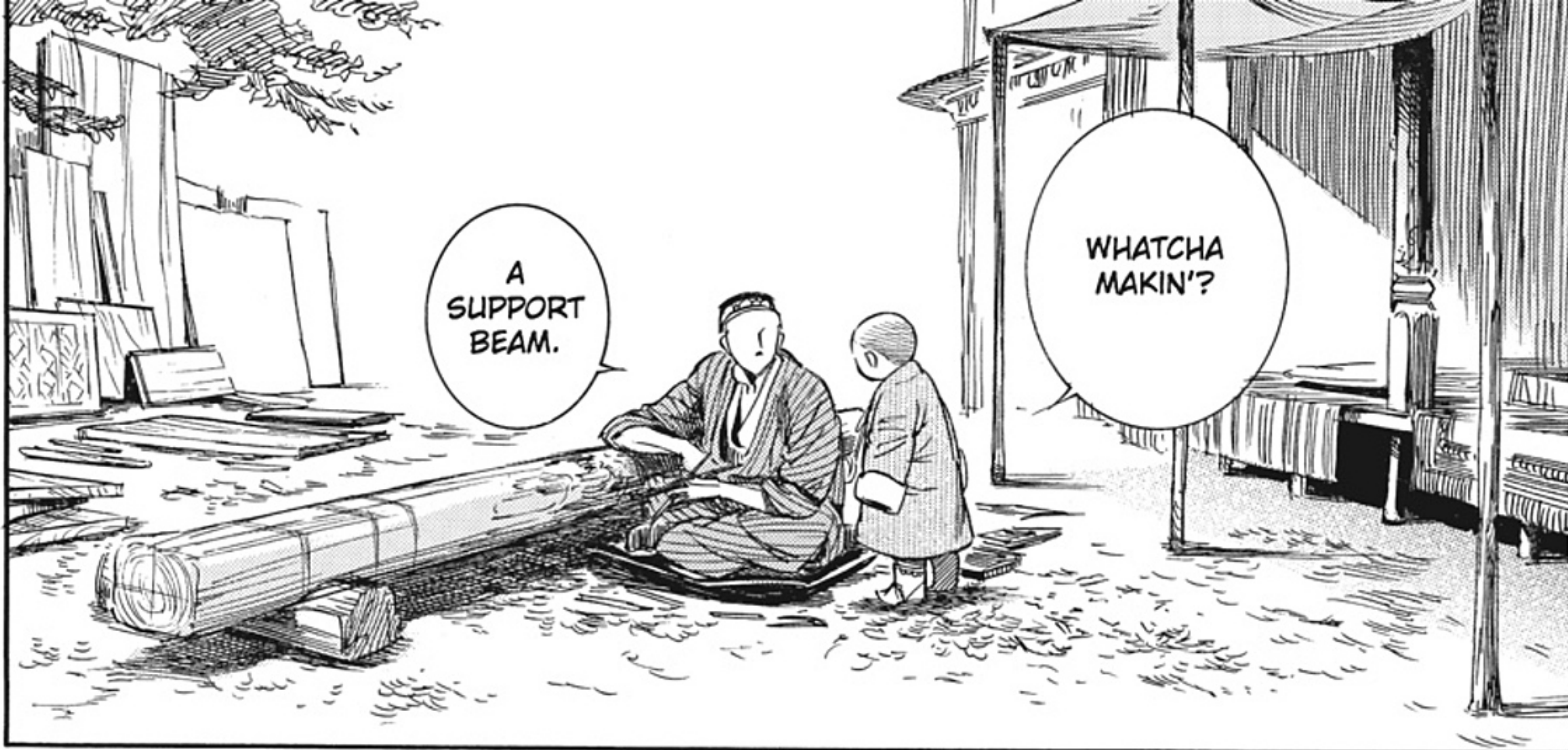
THAT'S RIGHT!

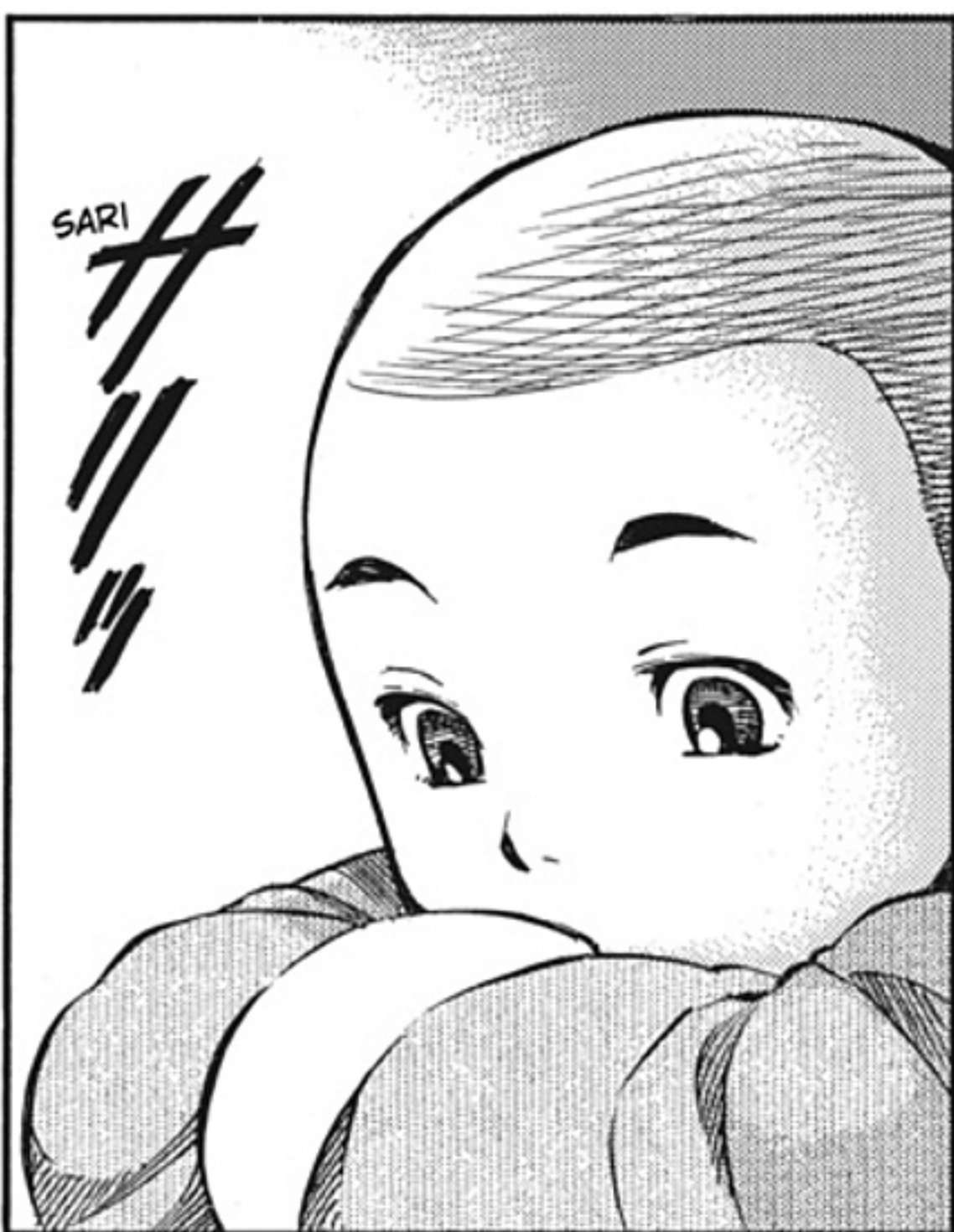
THAT'S OUR BEST OPTION!

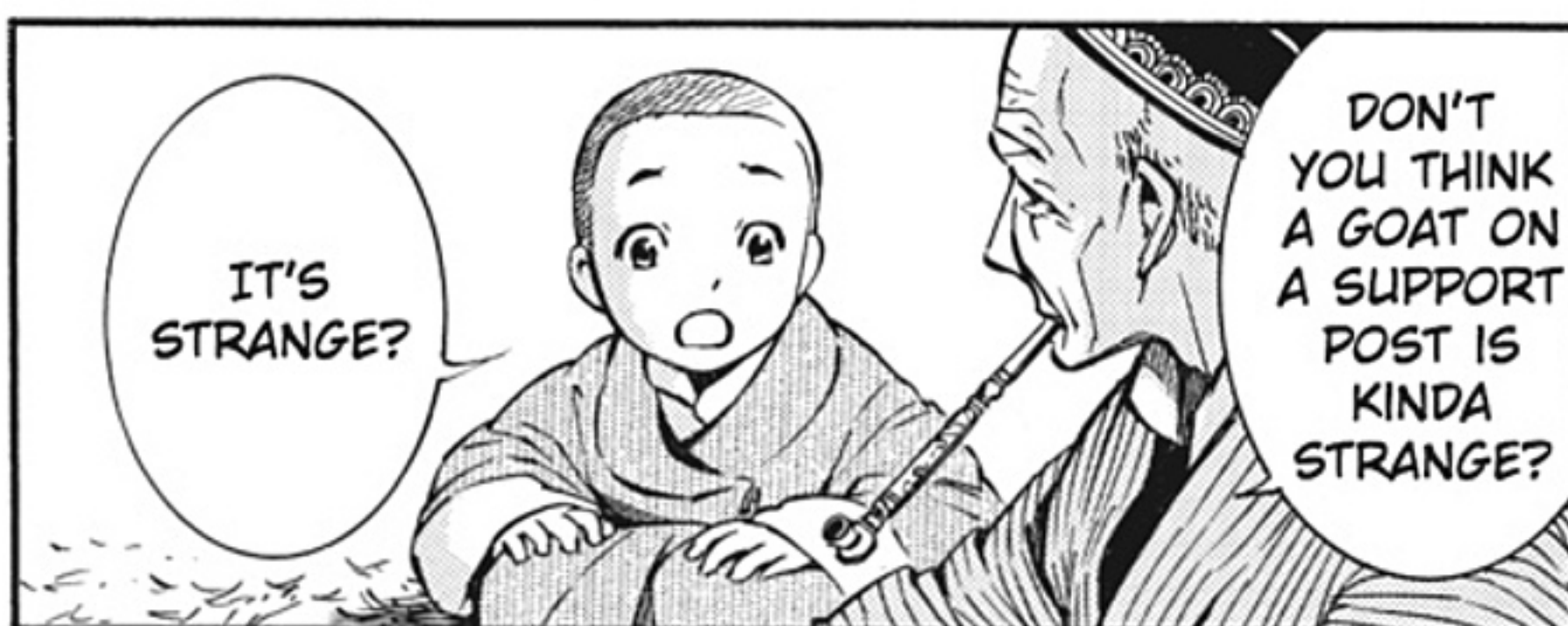
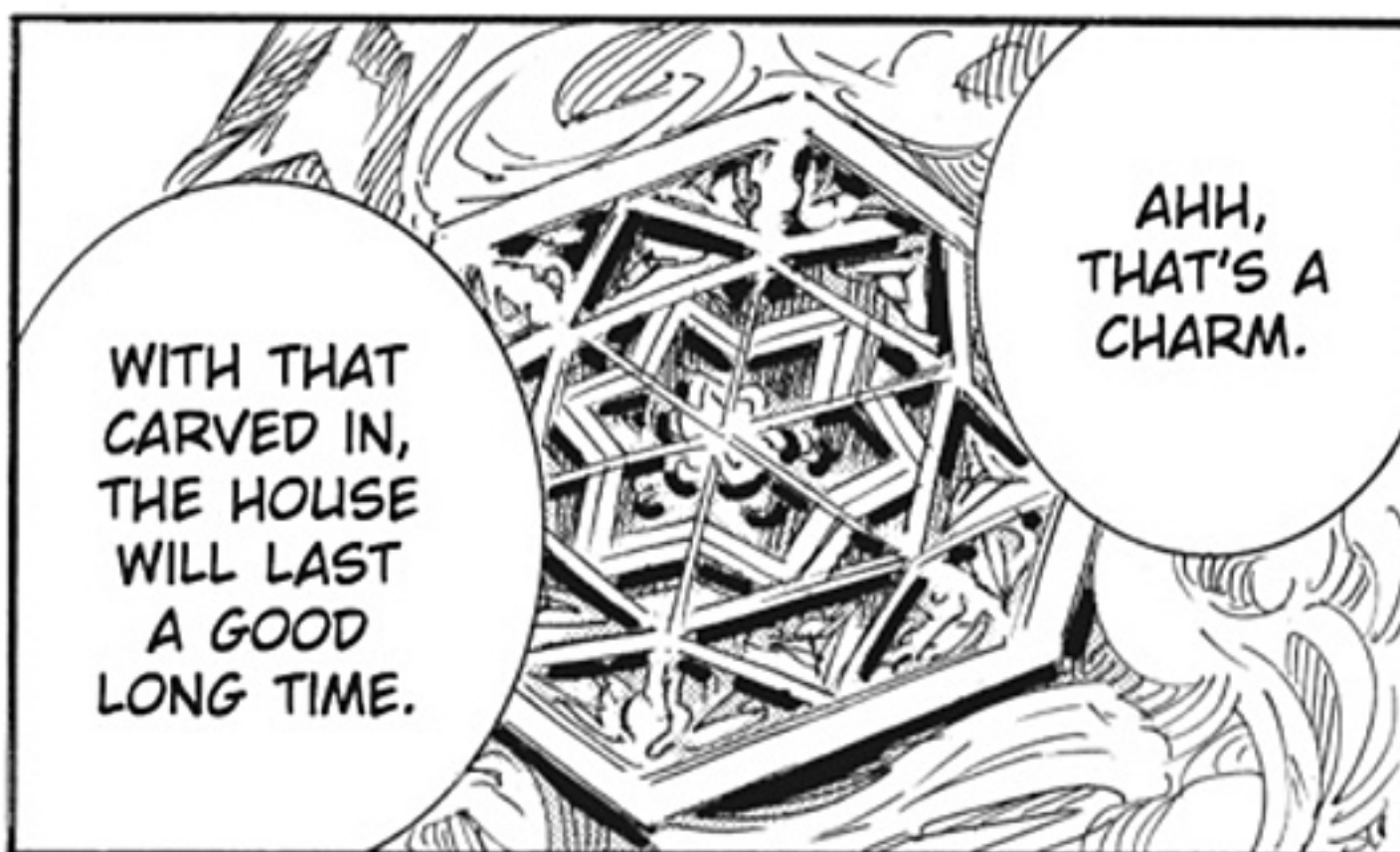
WE GAINED NOTHING IN SENDING HER ALL THE WAY OUT THERE.

SO WE'LL SIMPLY TAKE HER BACK AND GIVE HER TO THE NUMAJI.







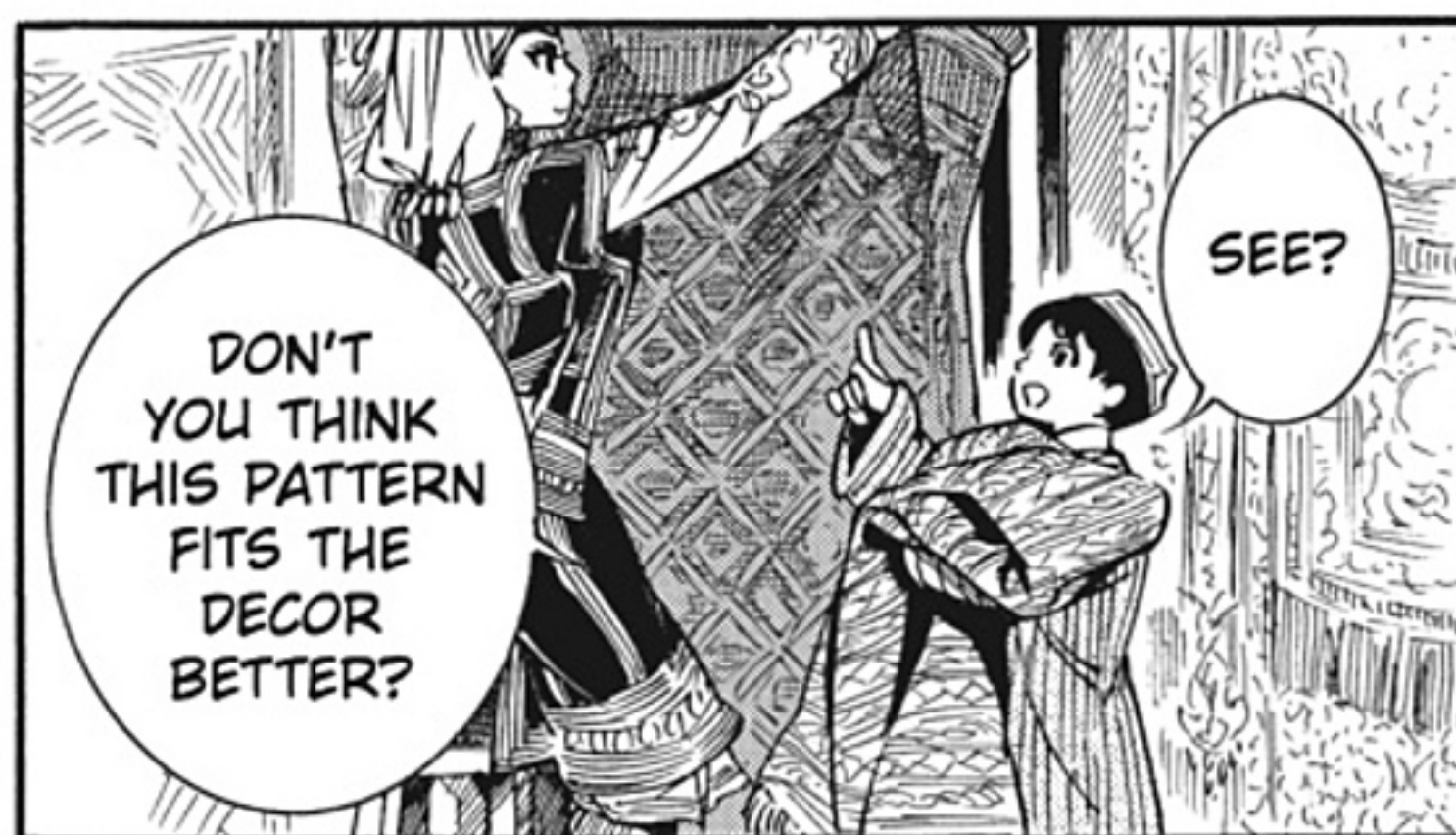




CHAPTER TWO
THE CHARM









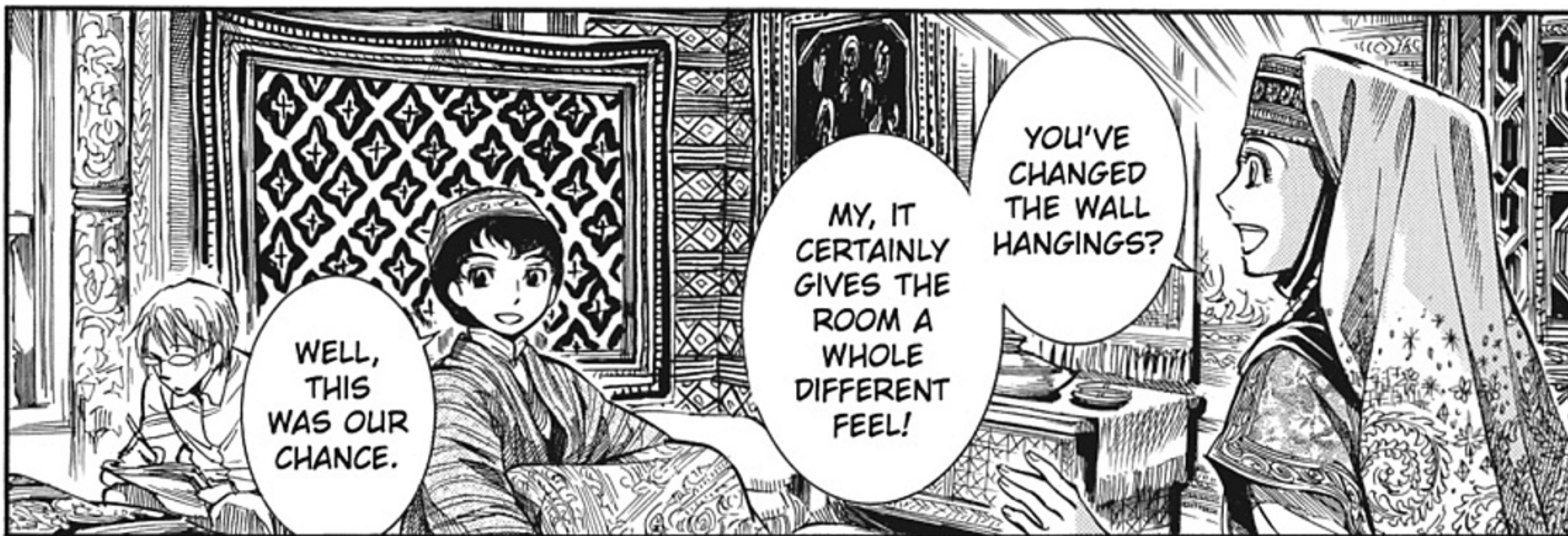
YES?

OH!



IS AMIR
HERE?

THERE'S
SOME-
THING I
WANTED
TO ASK
HER...



WELL,
THIS
WAS OUR
CHANCE.

MY, IT
CERTAINLY
GIVES THE
ROOM A
WHOLE
DIFFERENT
FEEL!

YOU'VE
CHANGED
THE WALL
HANGINGS?



OH, YOU
CAN TELL
IT'S SIS
JUST BY
LOOKING!

SO THESE
ARE THE GIFTS
YOU RECEIVED
AS WEDDING
PRESENTS?

NOT THAT
I HAVE
ANY RIGHT
TO TALK!

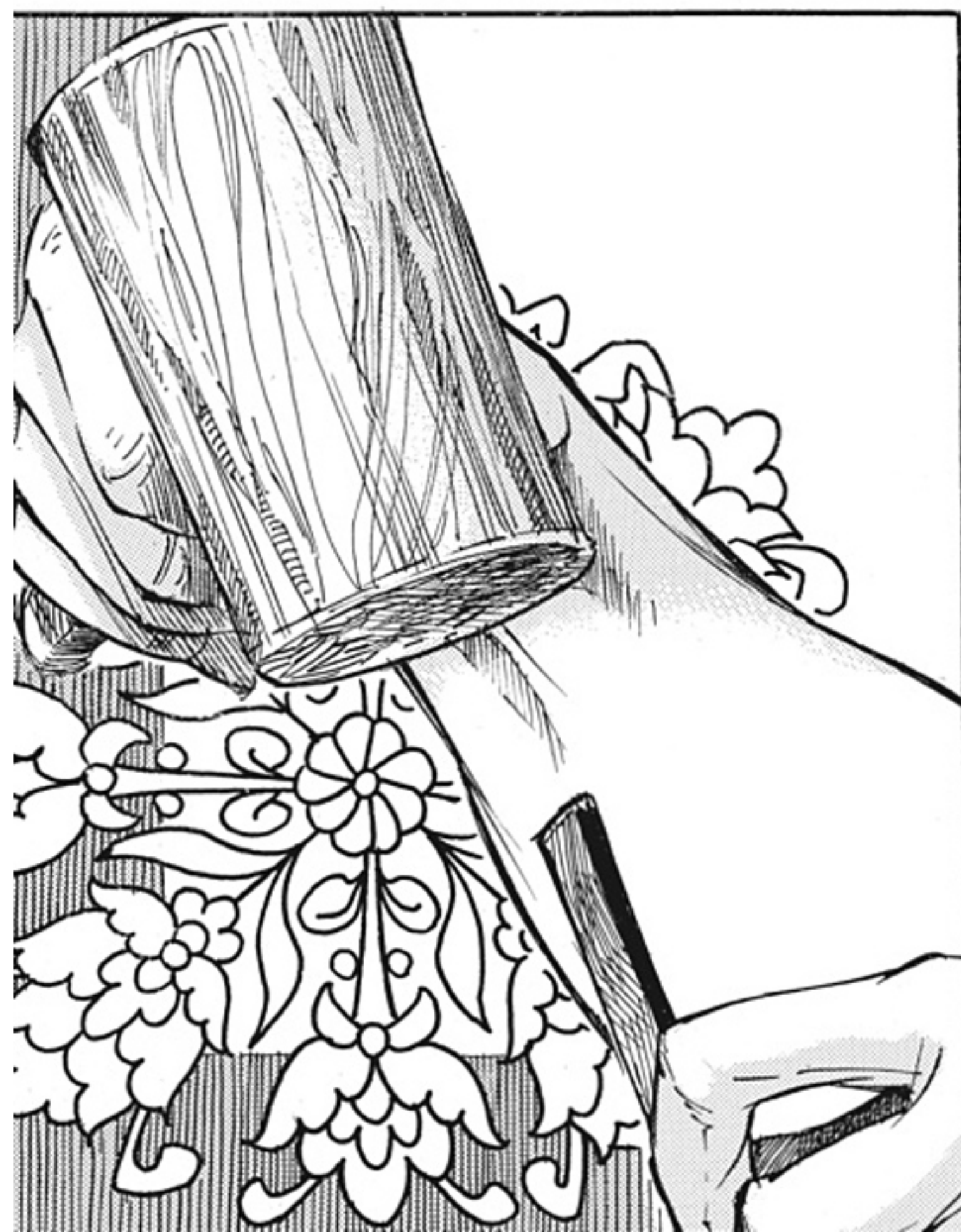
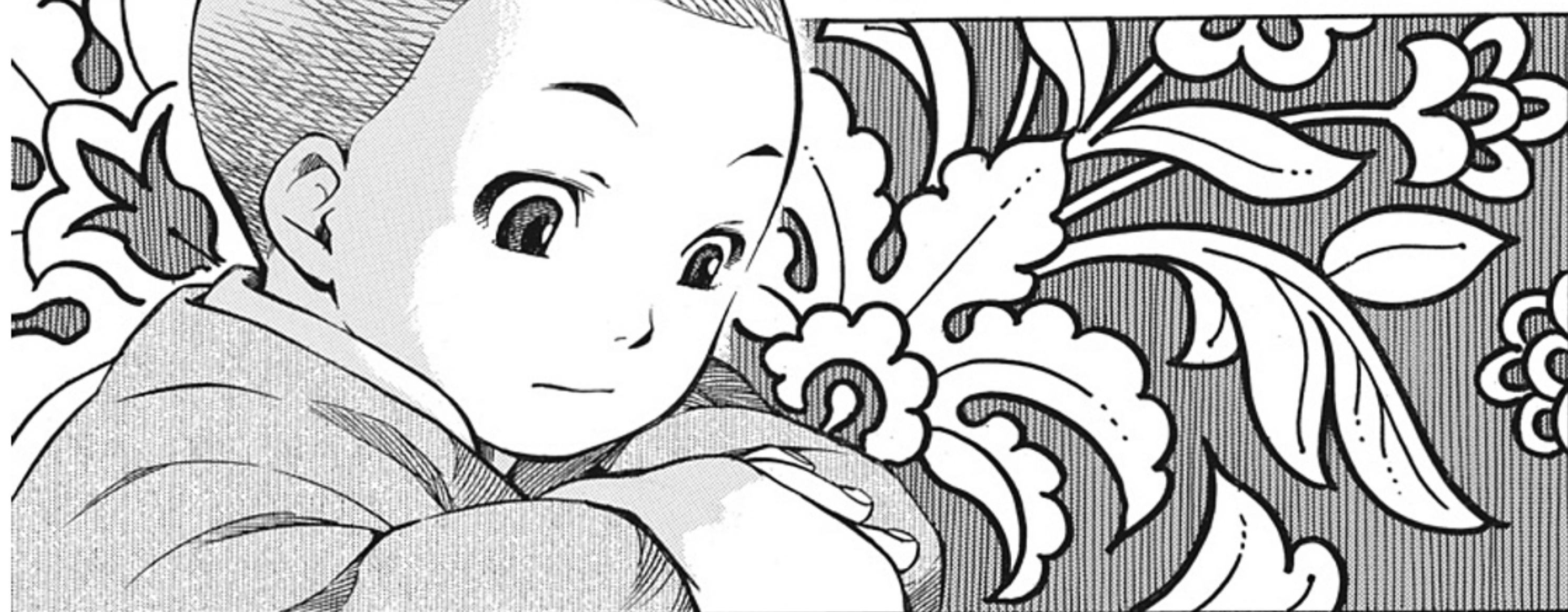
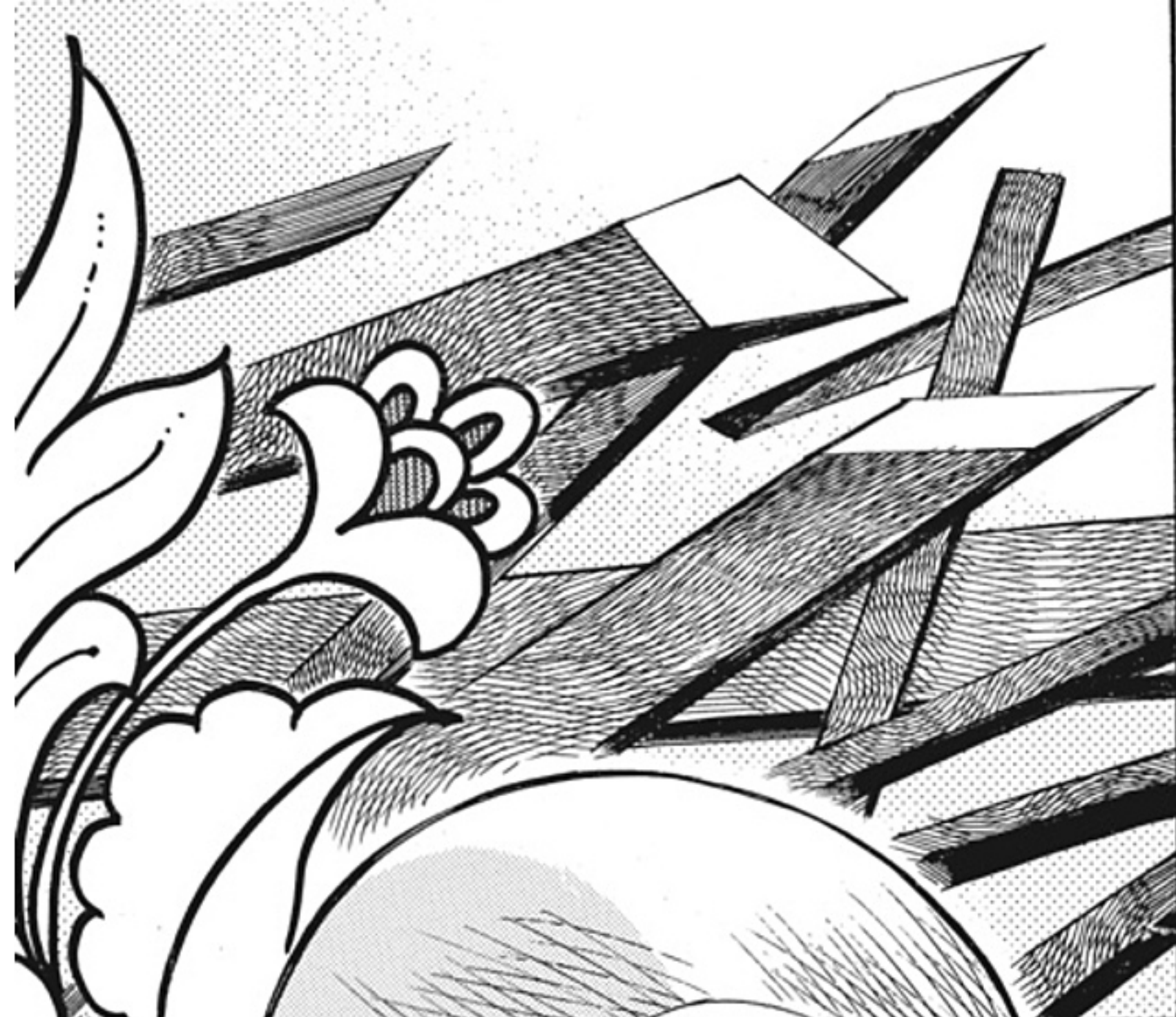
THAT'S
RIGHT.
THAT ONE
WAS FROM
BIG SISTER
MELTA.

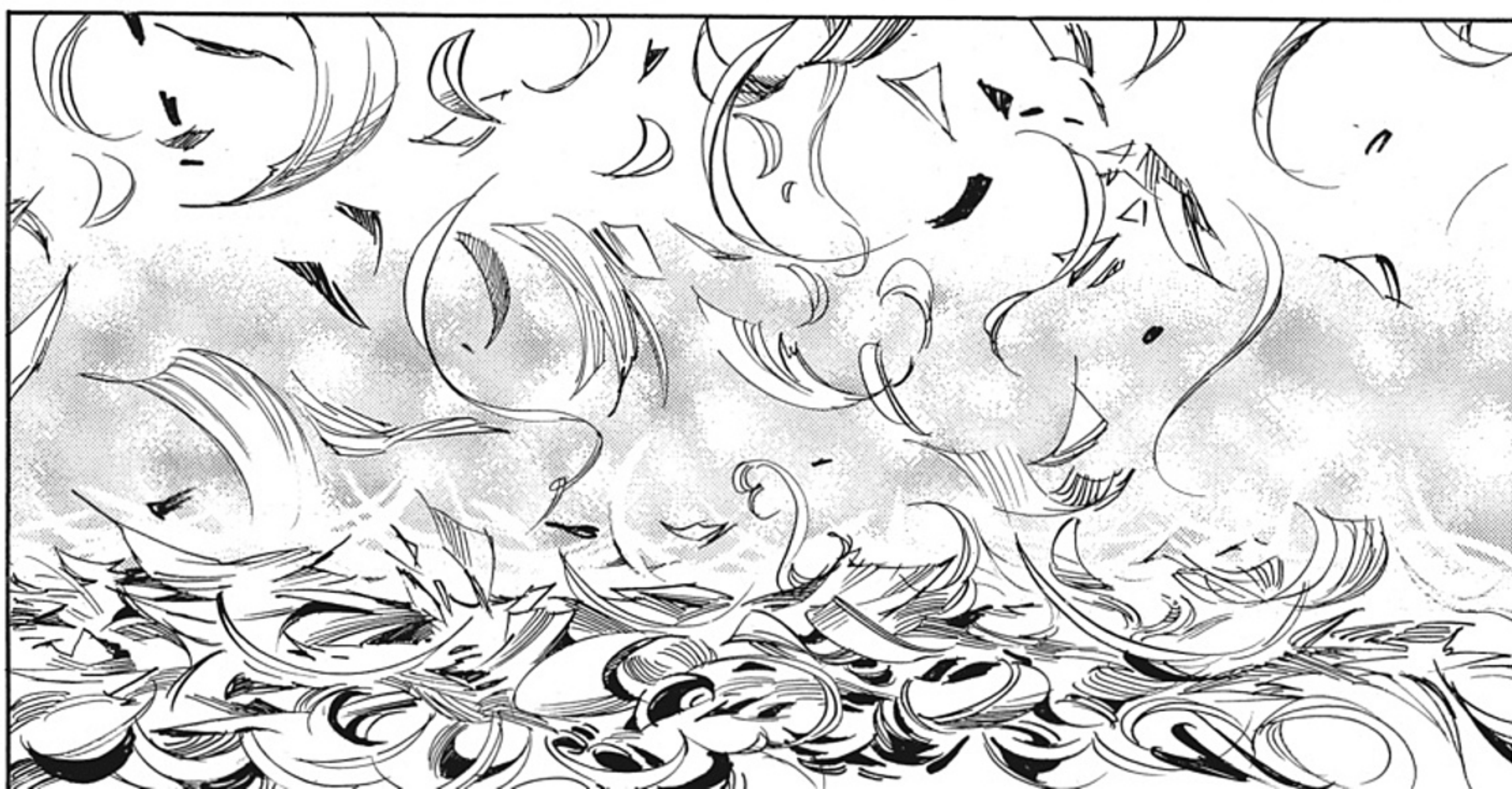


OH, NOW
THIS
TRULY IS
ASTON-
ISHING.

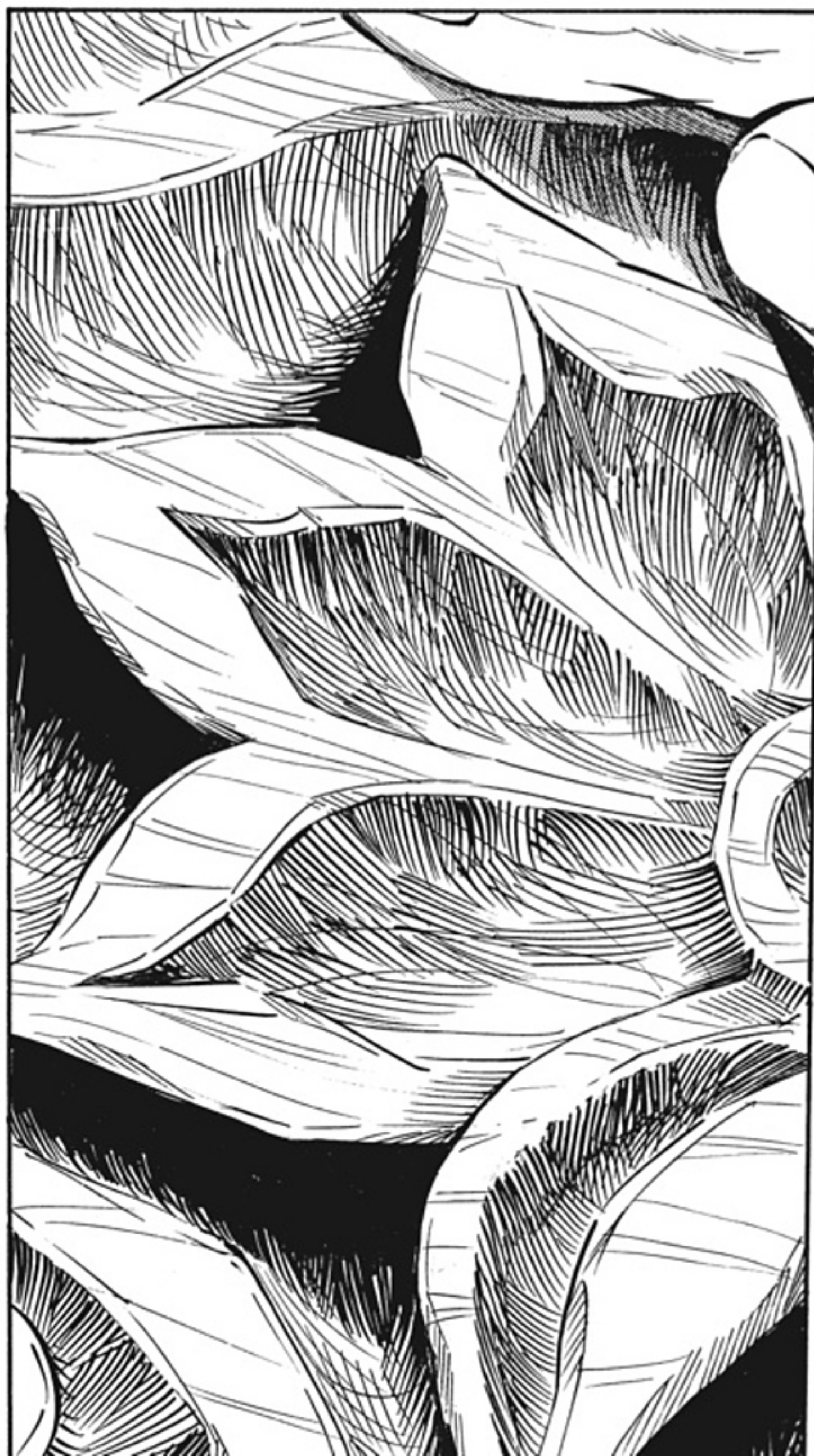
IT
SEEMS
LIKE A
COM-
PLETELY
NEW
ROOM.

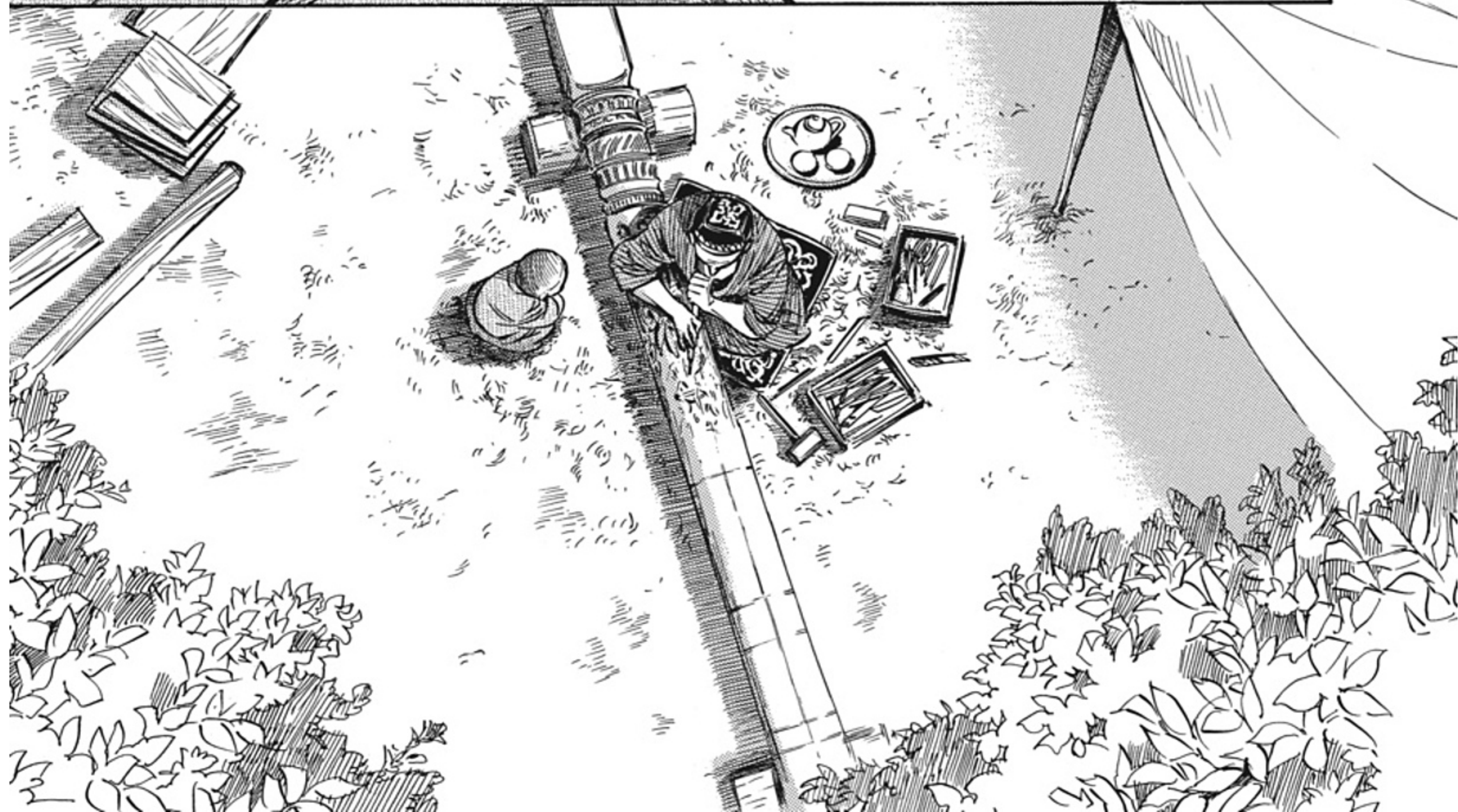
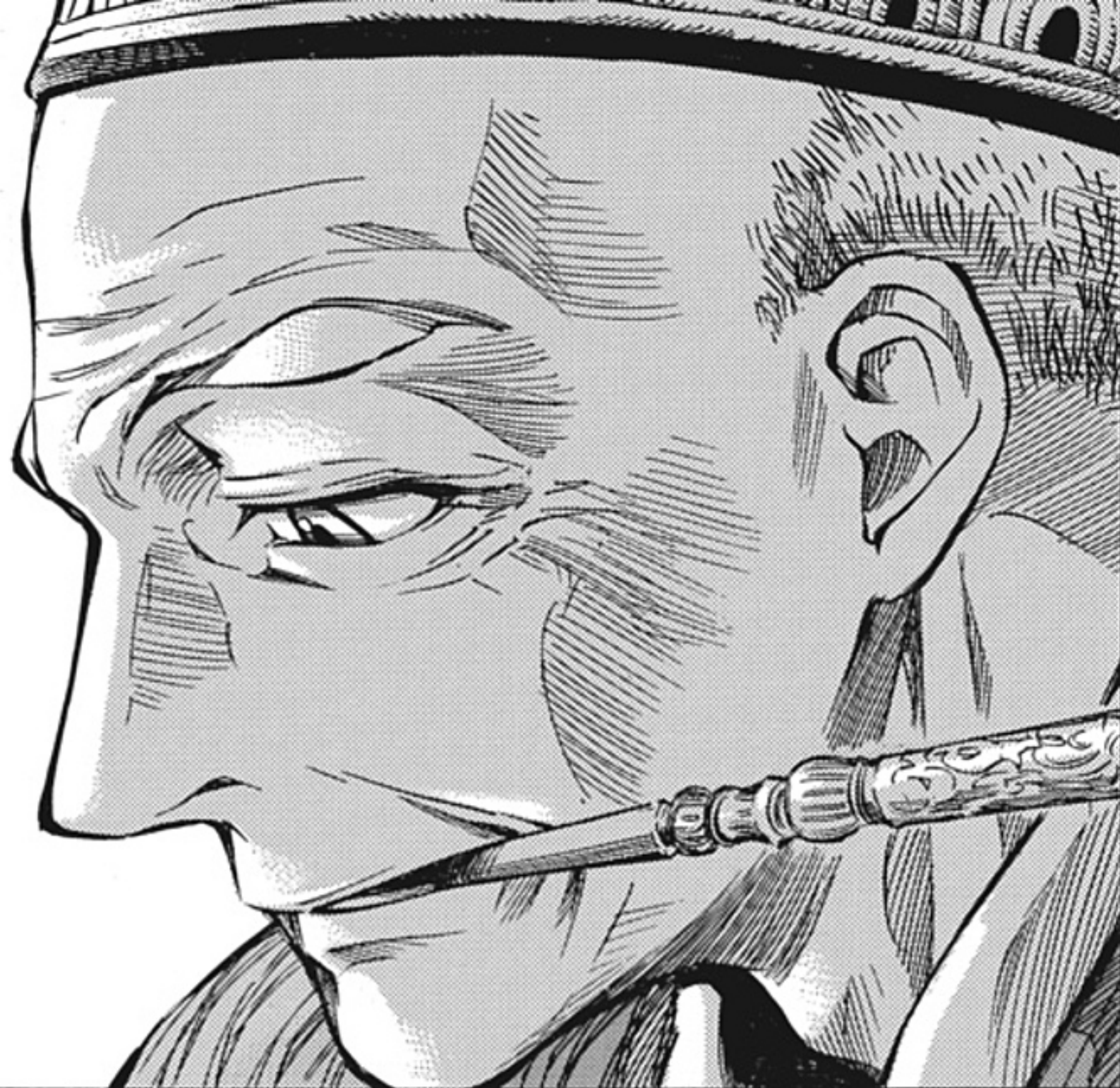


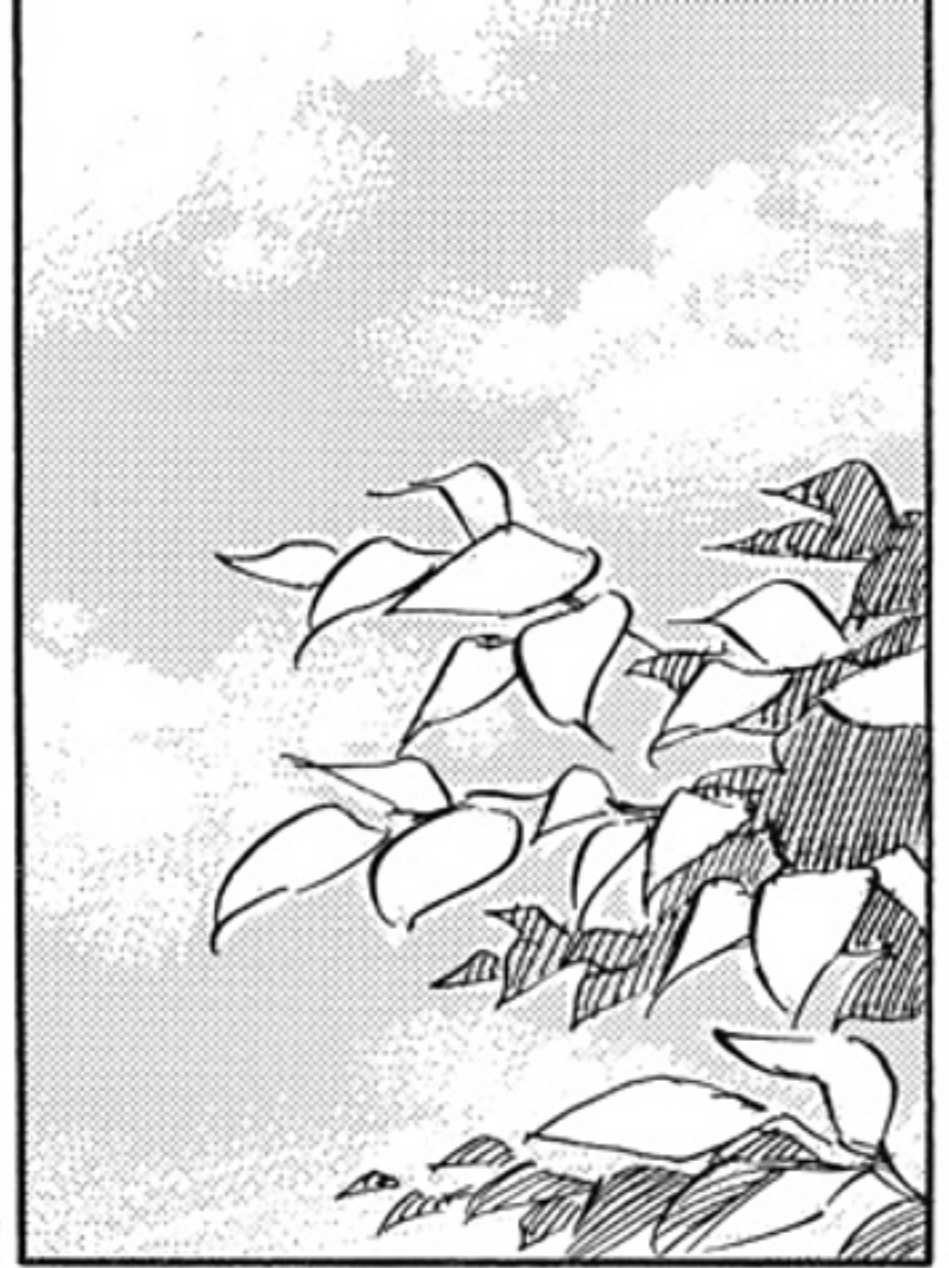










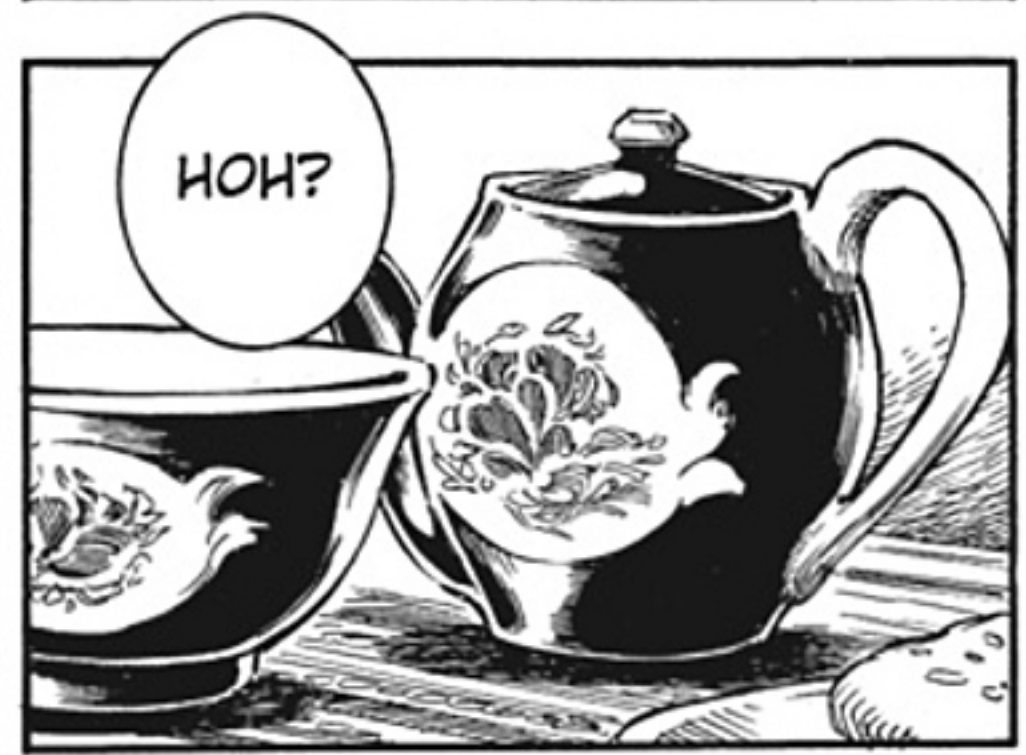




HUH?
THAT MEANS
YOU'RE THE
YOUNGEST?

SO YOU
HAVE TWO BIG
BROTHERS
AND AN OLDER
SISTER?

YEAH.



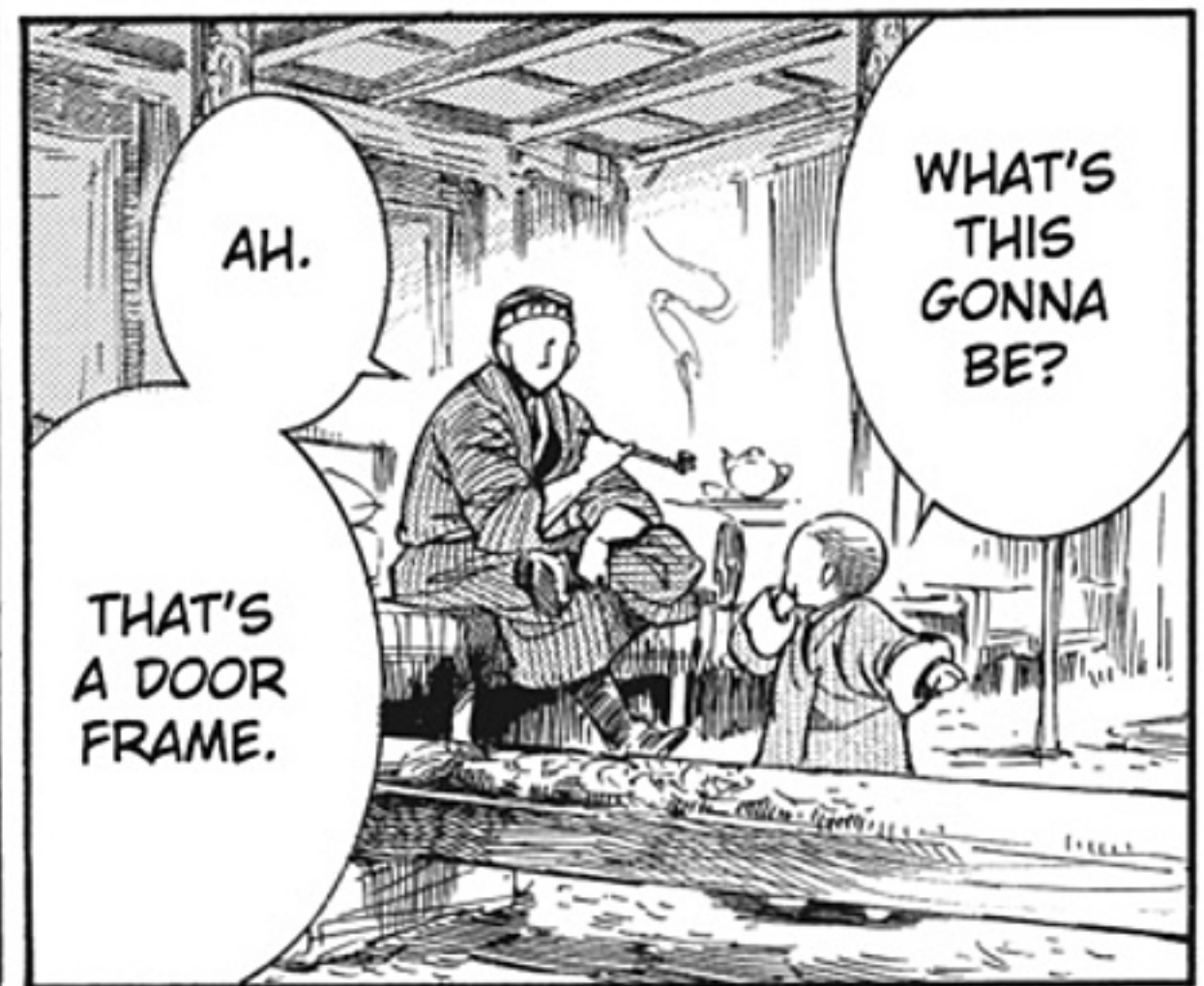
HOH?



A
DOOR.

AND
THIS?

DON'T
TOUCH
THEM. THEY
COULD FALL
AND HURT
YOU.



AH.

THAT'S
A DOOR
FRAME.

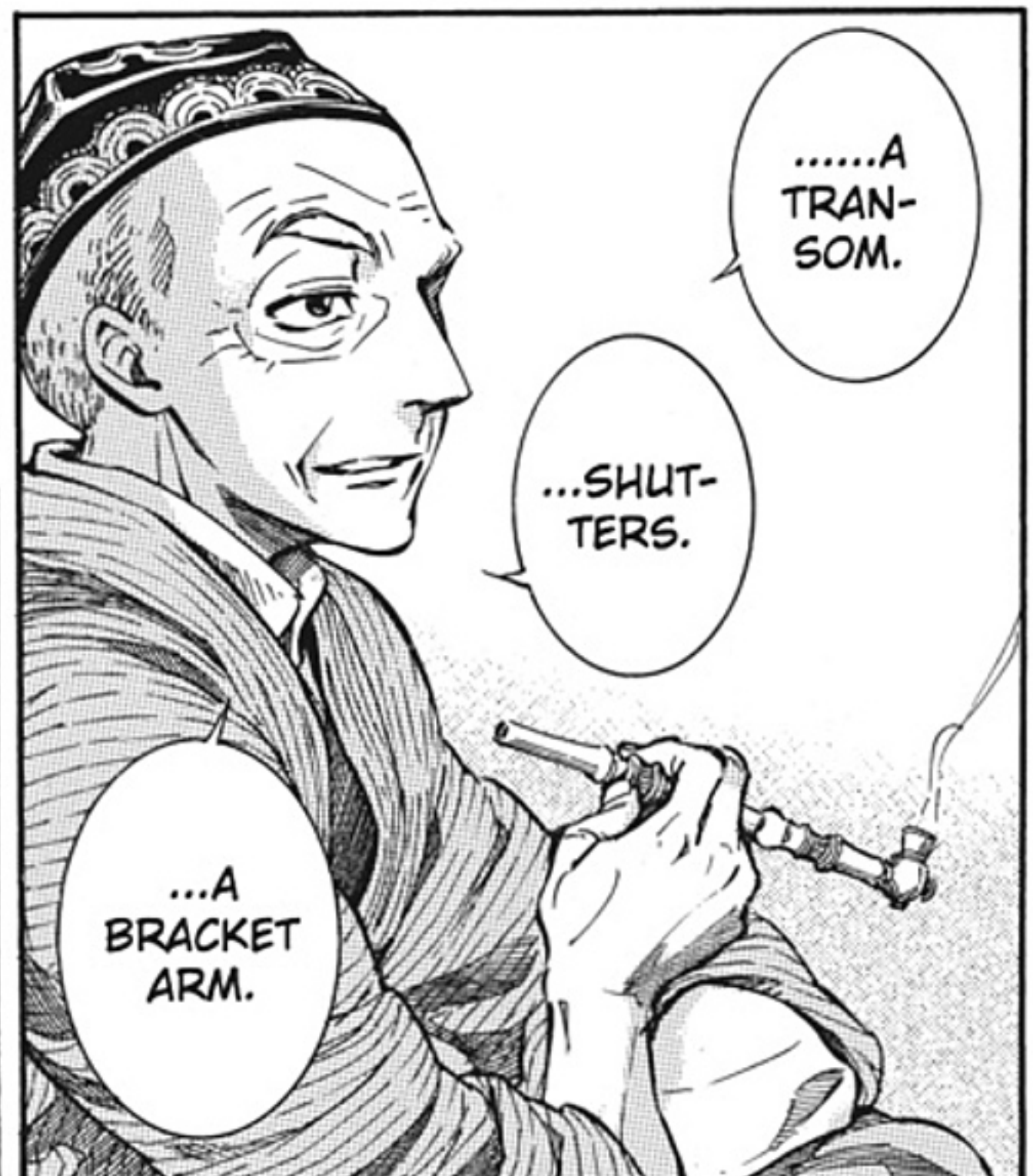
WHAT'S
THIS
GONNA
BE?



"BRACKET
ARM"?



LOOK
HERE,
KID...



.....A
TRAN-
SOM.

...SHUT-
TERS.

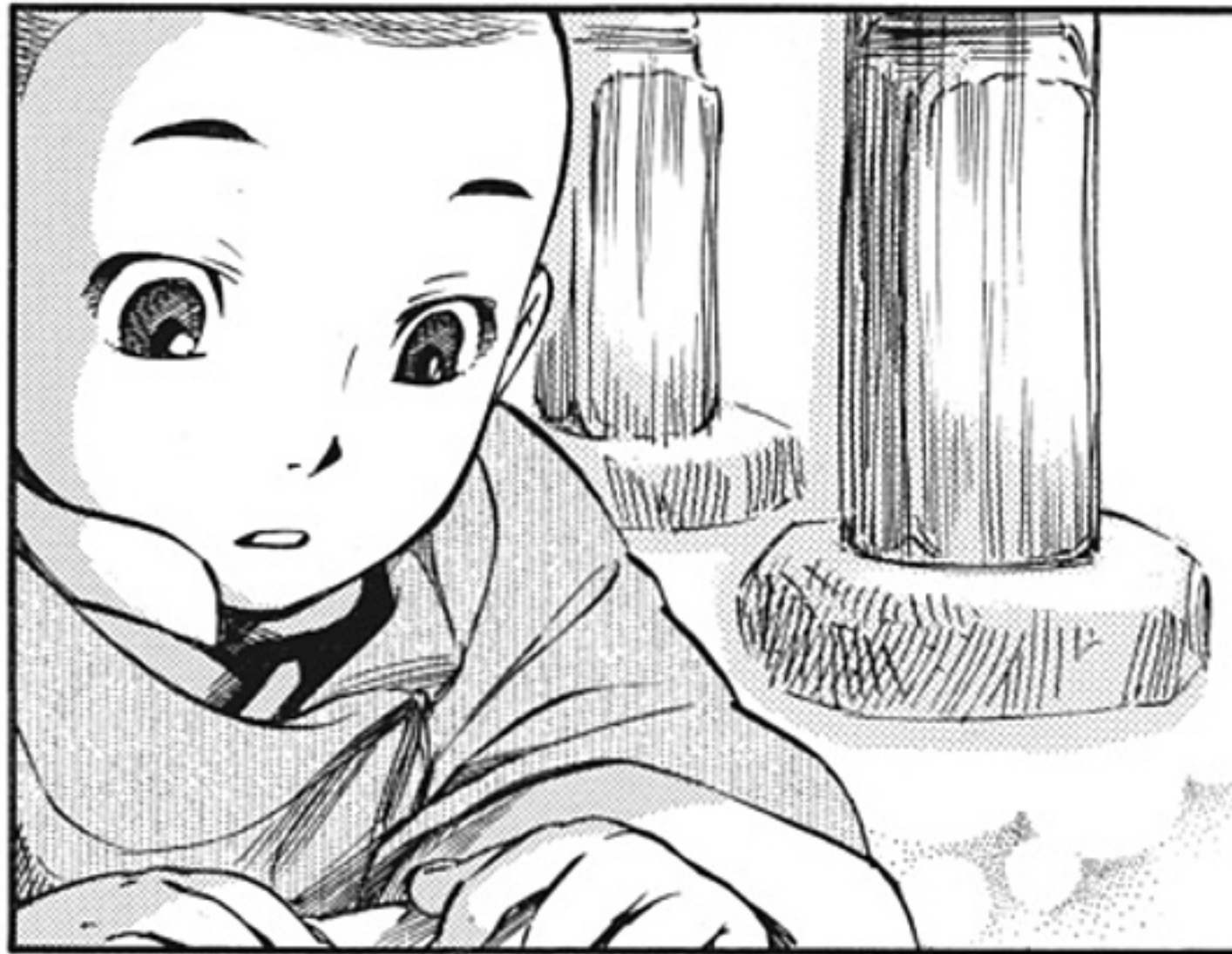
...A
BRACKET
ARM.



THEN YOU
STAND THE
SUPPORT
BEAMS
ON THOSE
STONES.

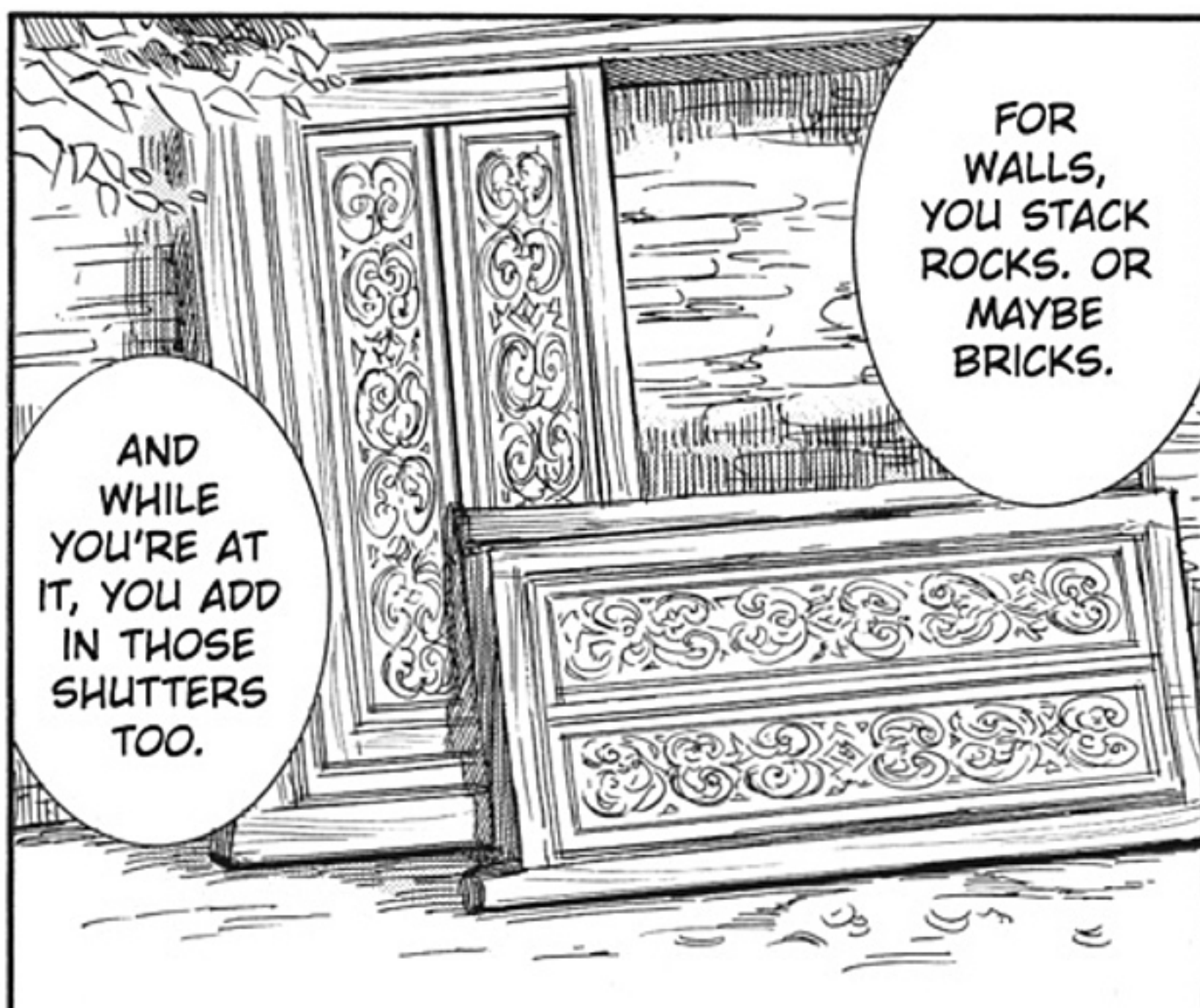


FIRST,
YOU LAY
OUT STONES
IN A
REGULAR
PATTERN,
SEE?



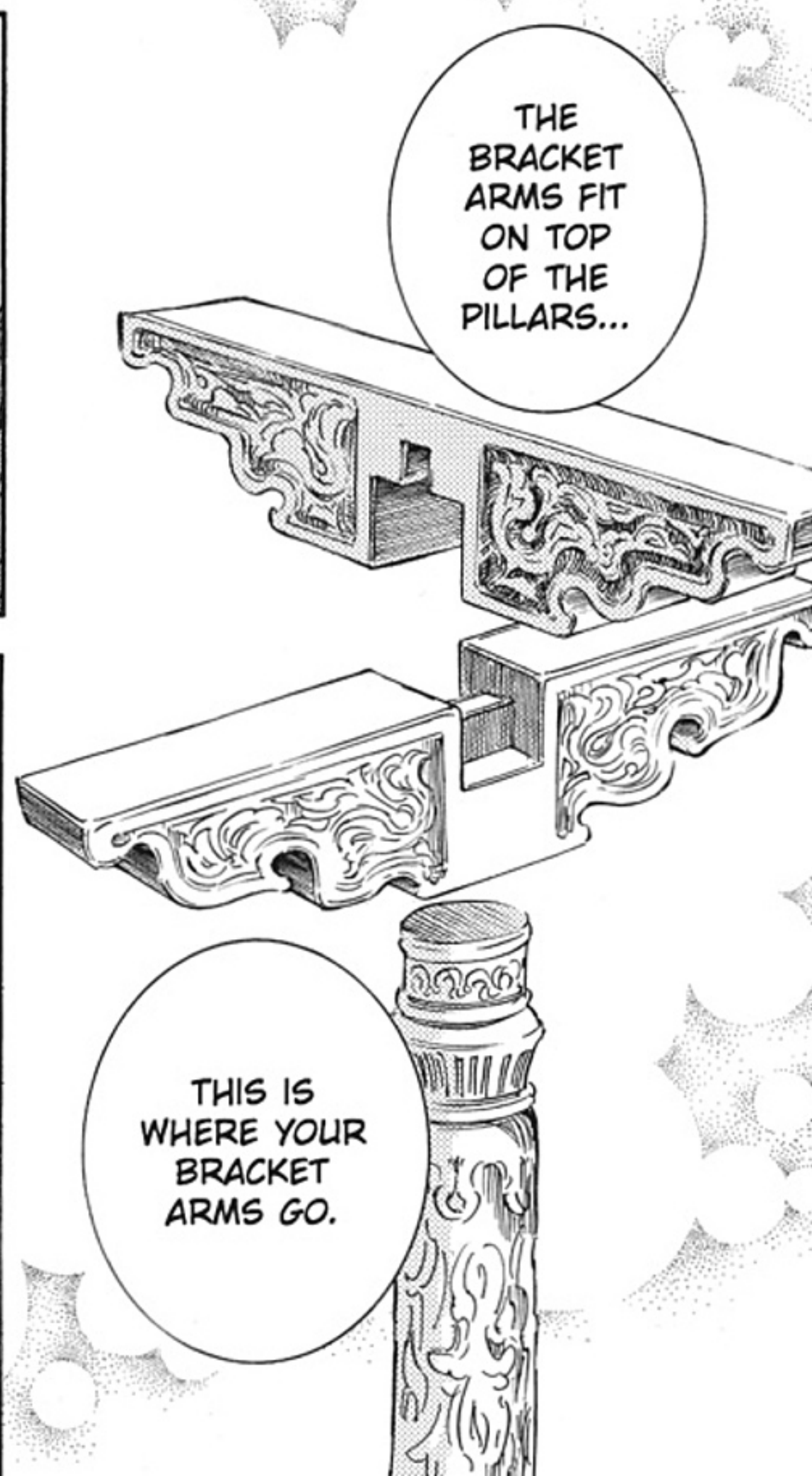
YOU
HAVE TO
BE MINDFUL
ABOUT
WHICH WAY
THE DOOR
OPENS.

THEN
THE DOOR
IS BUILT
BETWEEN
TWO
BEAMS.



AND
WHILE
YOU'RE AT
IT, YOU ADD
IN THOSE
SHUTTERS
TOO.

FOR
WALLS,
YOU STACK
ROCKS. OR
MAYBE
BRICKS.



THE
BRACKET
ARMS FIT
ON TOP
OF THE
PILLARS...

THIS IS
WHERE YOUR
BRACKET
ARMS GO.

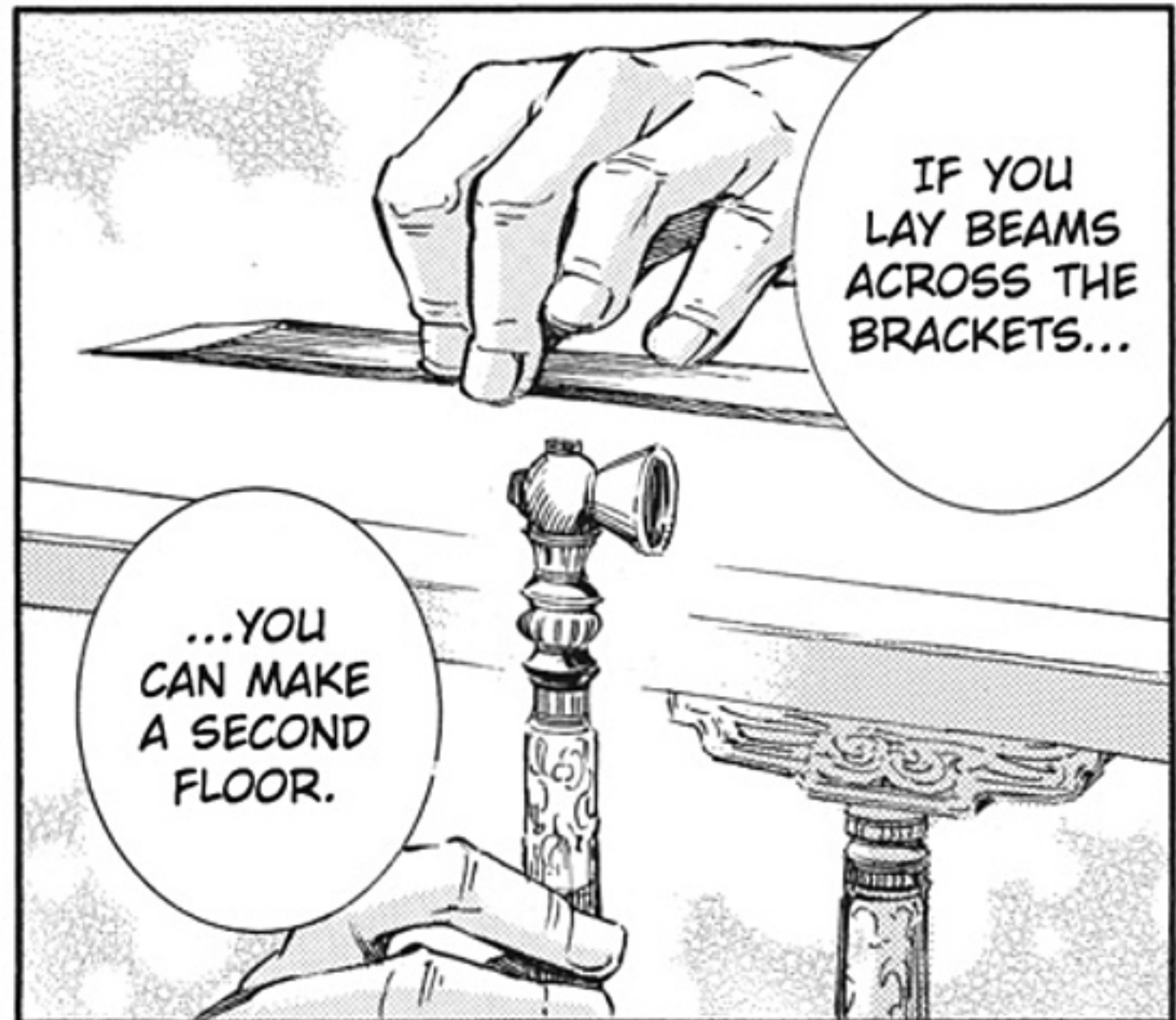


THOSE
BECOME THE
WINDOWS.



YOU PUT UP
HANDRAILS
ALONG THE
WALKWAYS...

...TO
MAKE SURE
NOBODY
FALLS.



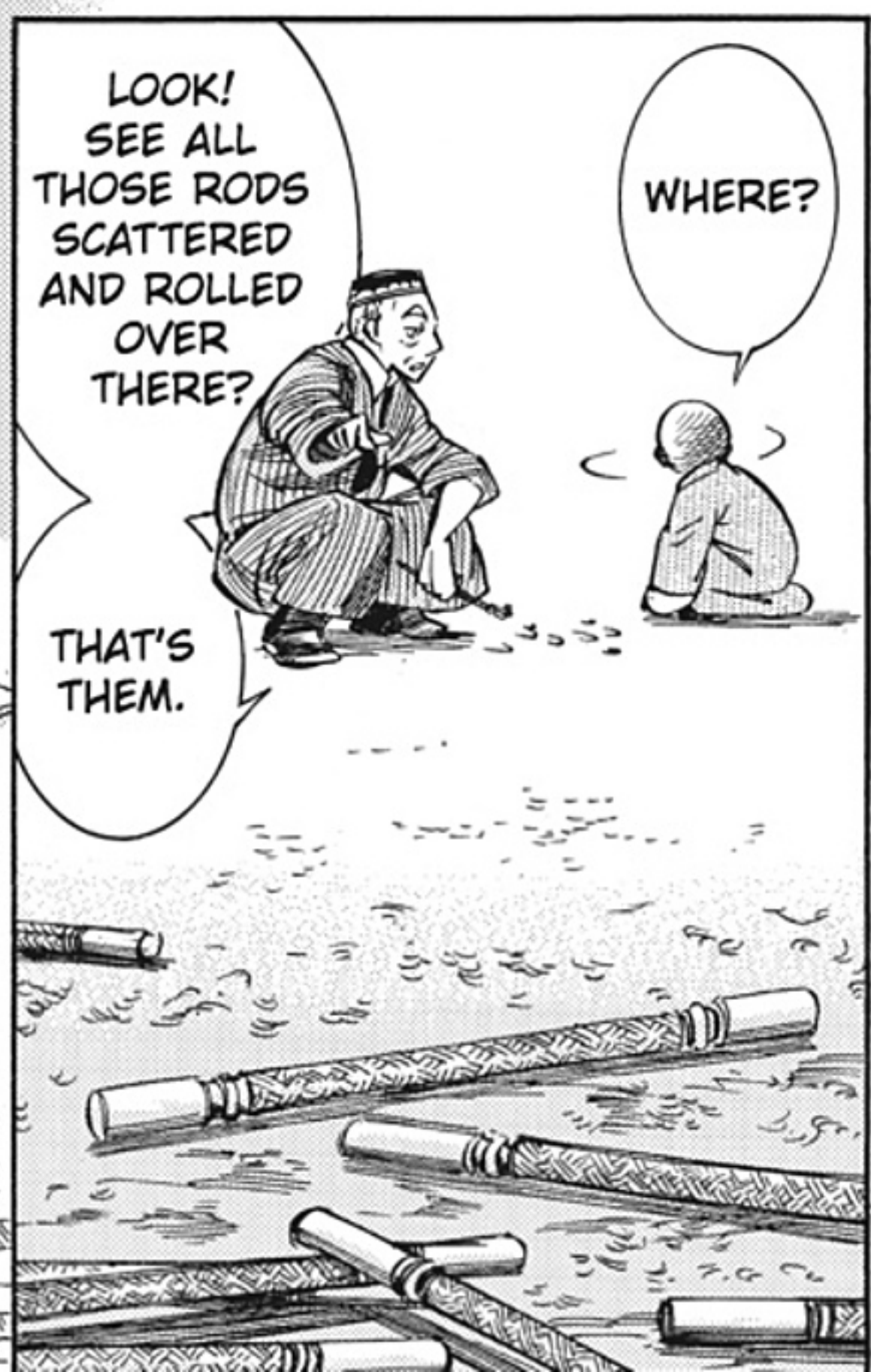
IF YOU
LAY BEAMS
ACROSS THE
BRACKETS...

...YOU
CAN MAKE
A SECOND
FLOOR.



NEXT YOU
LAY DOWN
JOISTS AND
PLACE THE
FLOORBOARDS
ACROSS
THEM...

...AND
PUT UP A
CEILING.



LOOK!
SEE ALL
THOSE RODS
SCATTERED
AND ROLLED
OVER
THERE?

WHERE?

THAT'S
THEM.

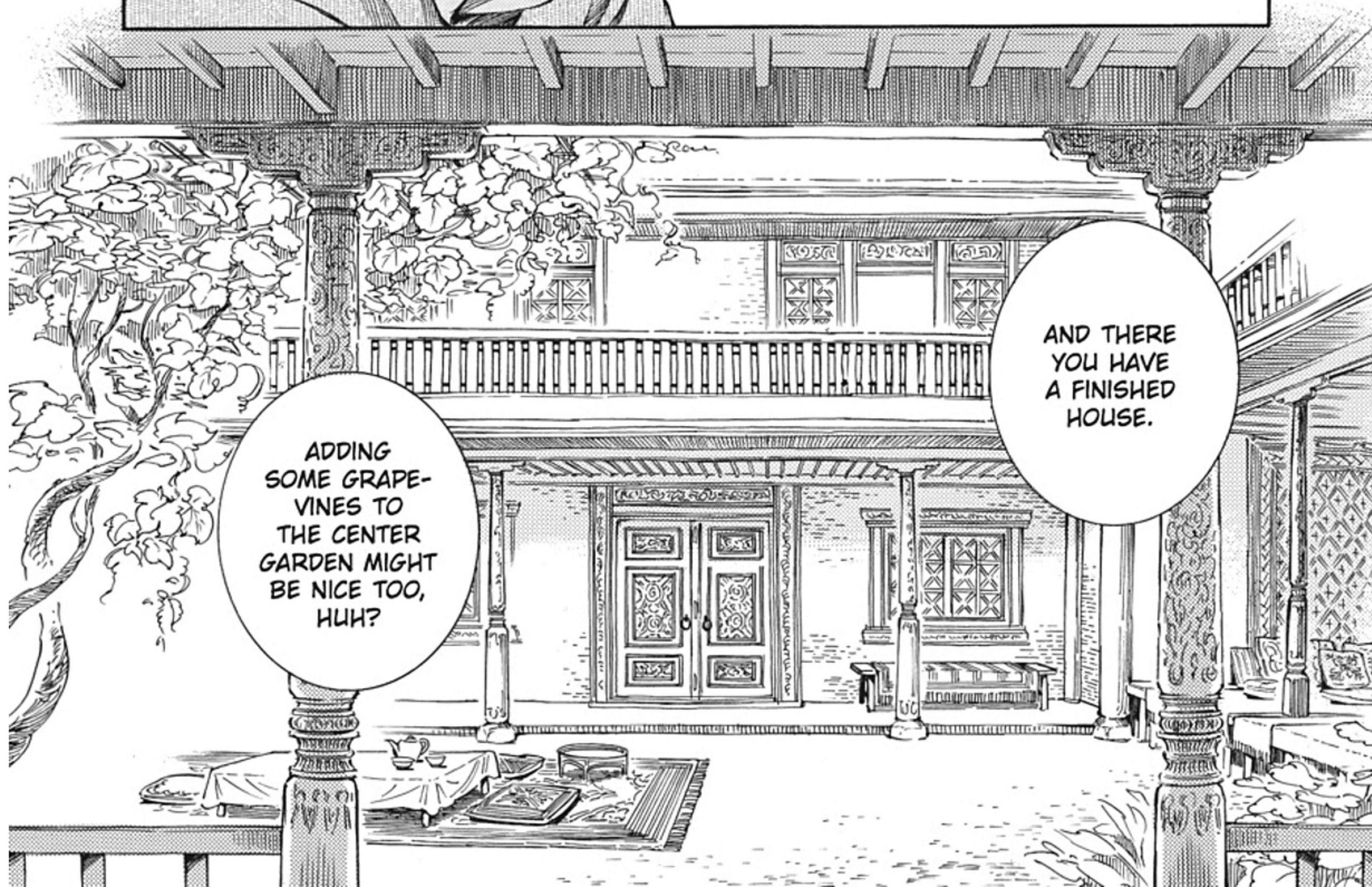


THEY
SPREAD
THE RUGS
ON THE
FLOORS...

...AND
PUT UP
THE WALL
HANG-
INGS...

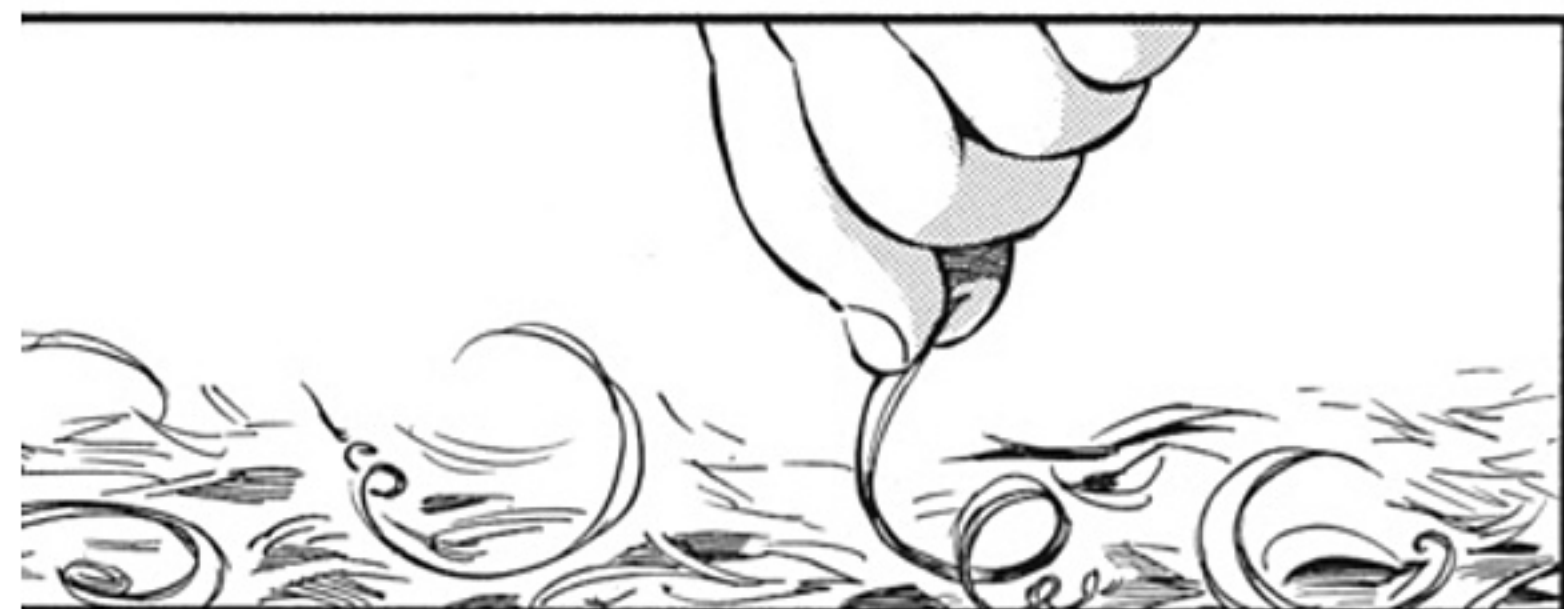


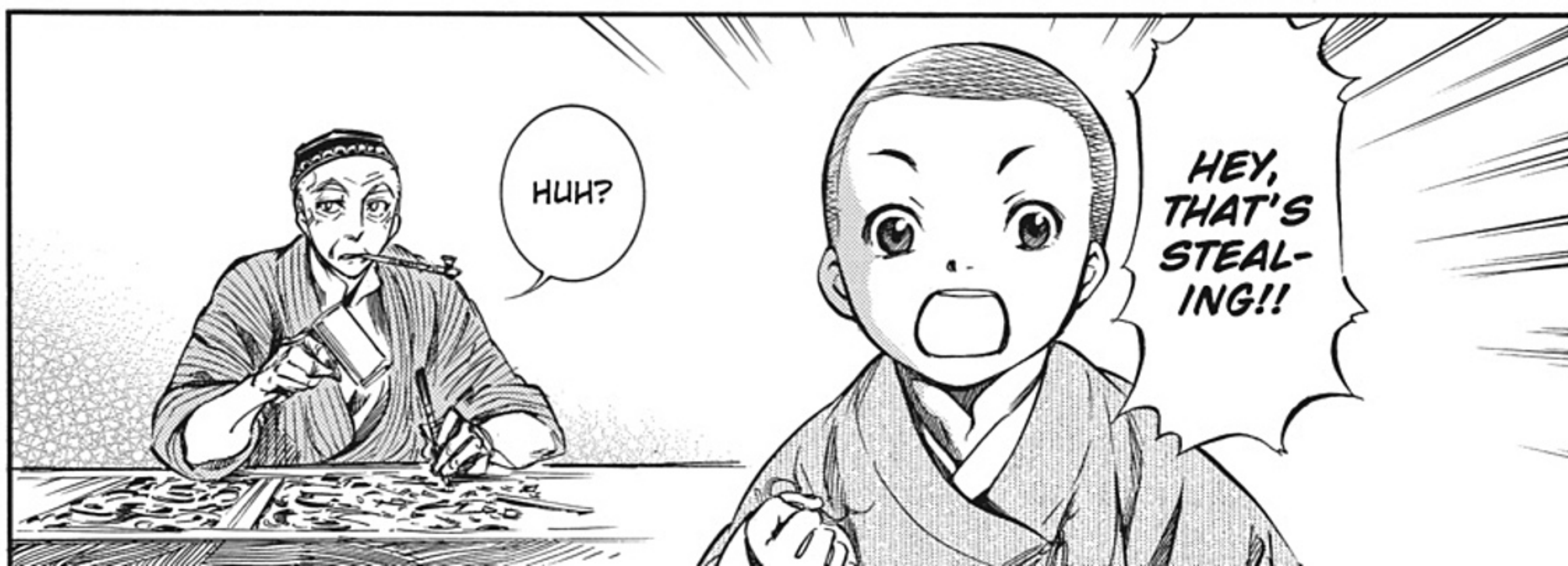
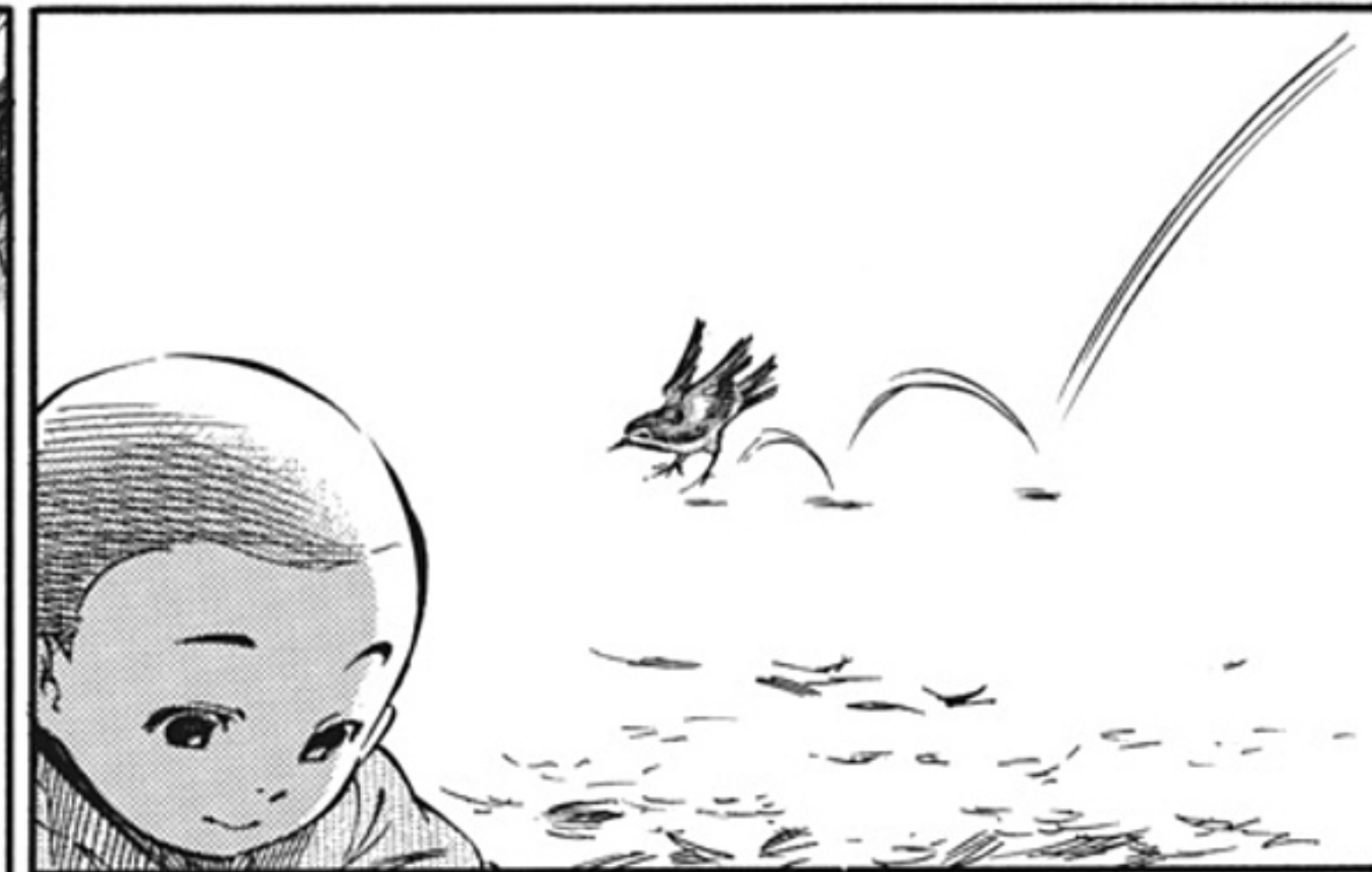
AFTER THAT,
YOUR WORK IS
DONE, AND YOU
CAN LEAVE IT TO
THE WIVES TO
SEE TO THE
FINISHING
TOUCHES.

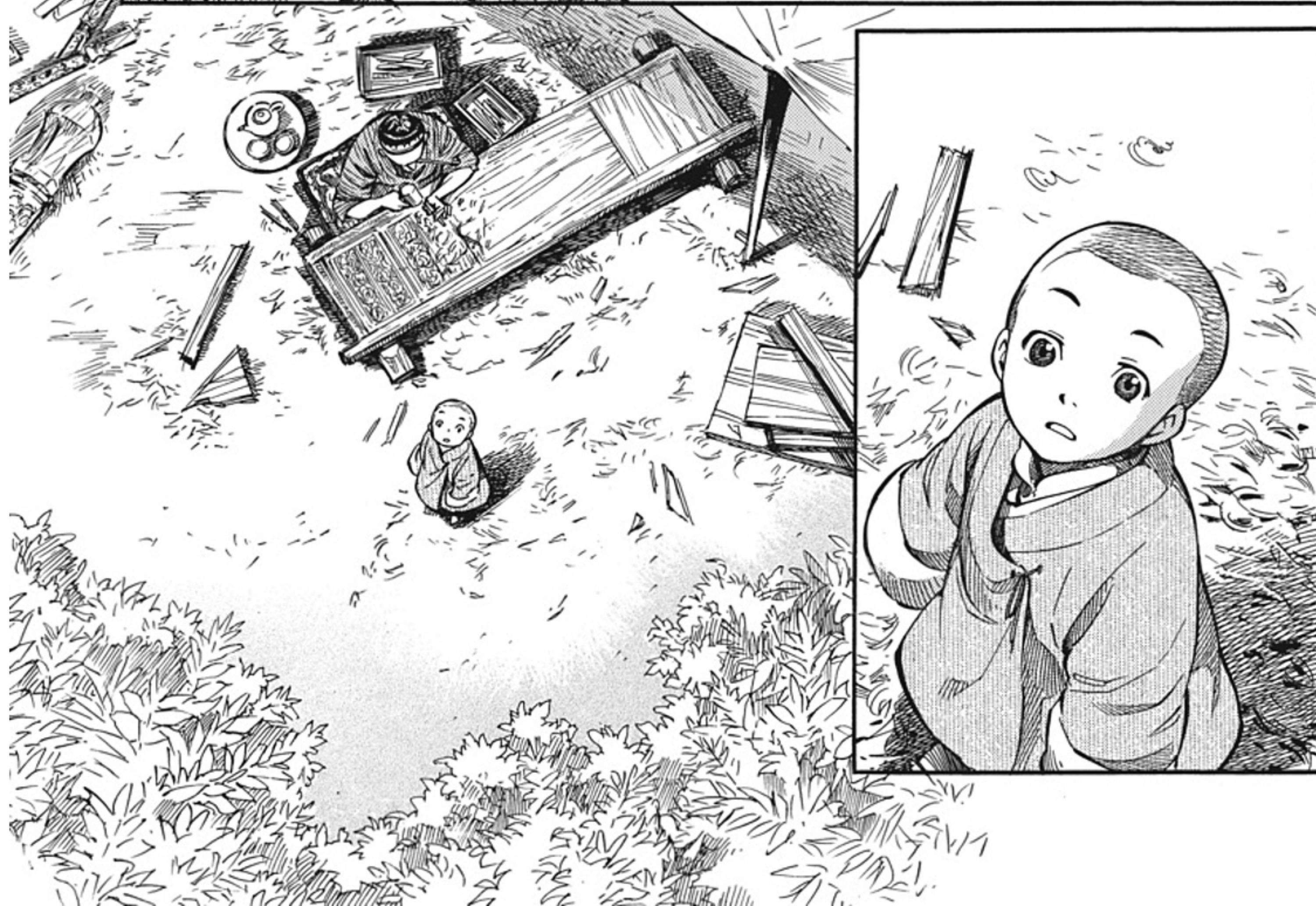
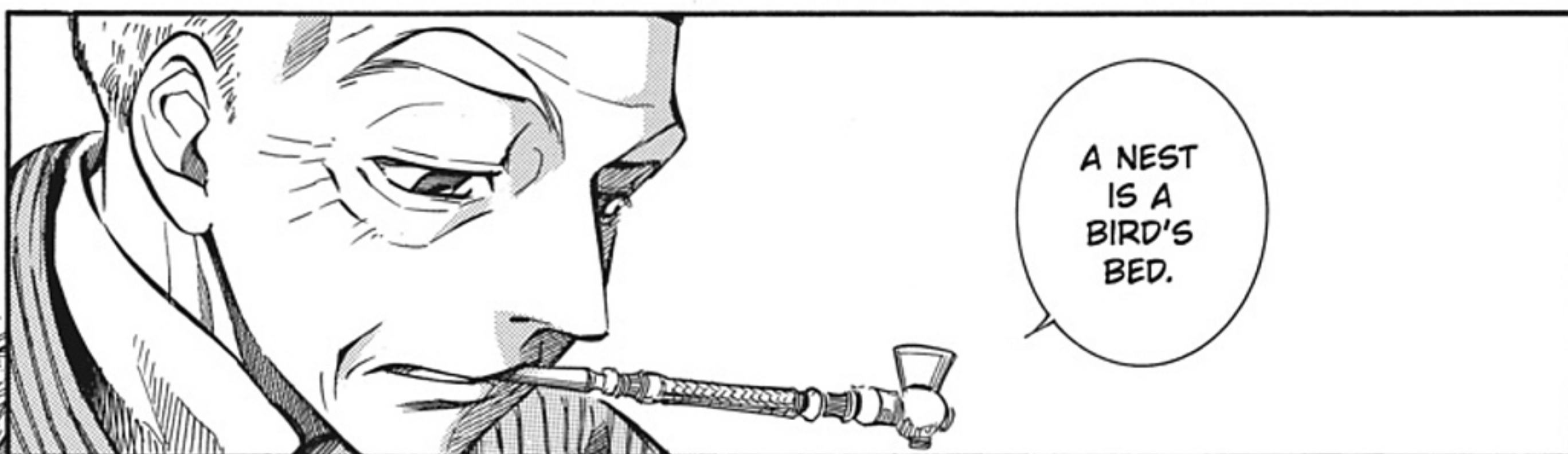


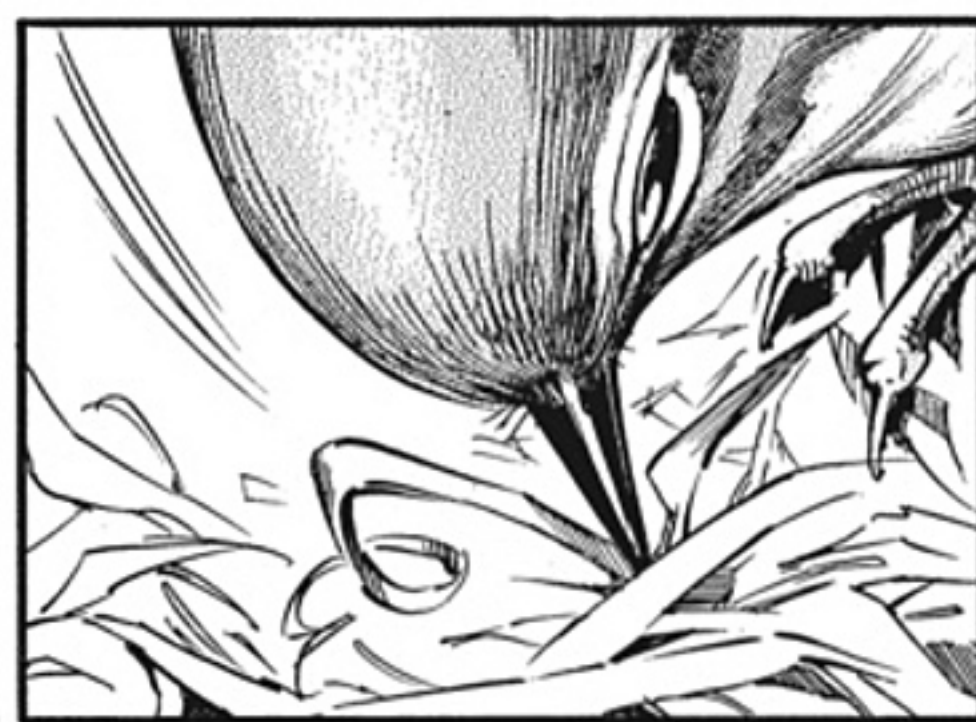
ADDING
SOME GRAPE-
VINES TO
THE CENTER
GARDEN MIGHT
BE NICE TOO,
HUH?

AND THERE
YOU HAVE
A FINISHED
HOUSE.











YOU
HAVEN'T
DONE A
THING!!

WHERE
DID YOU
GO WHILE
YOU WERE
SKIPPING
YOUR
CHORES!?



...TO WEED
THE CENTRAL
GARDEN
AND CLEAN
OUT THE
HENHOUSE!

YOUR
MOTHER
DISTINCTLY
REMEMBERS
TELLING
YOU...

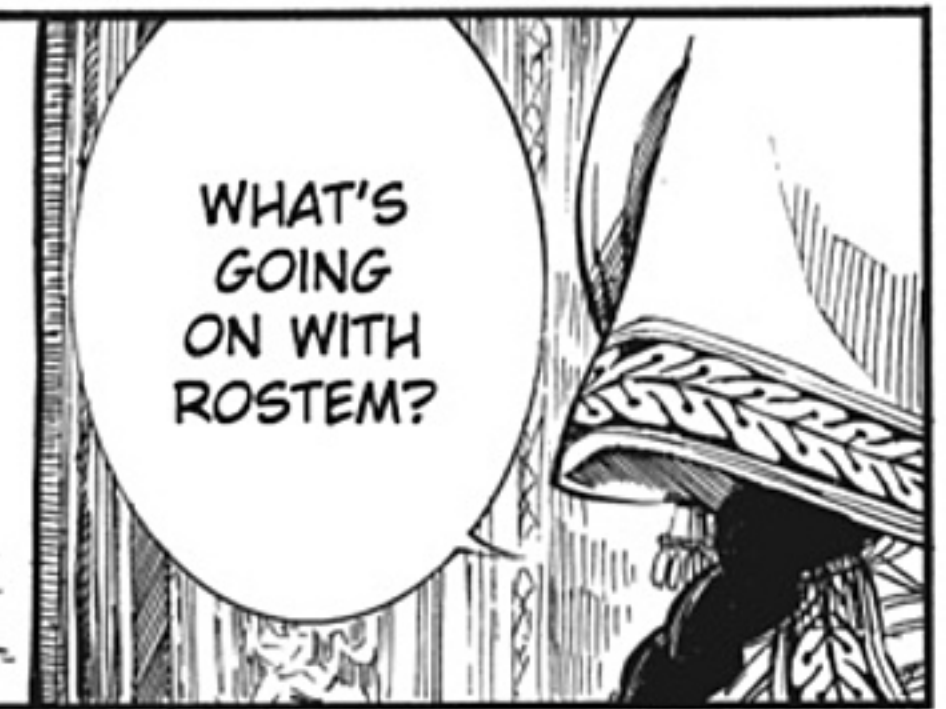


AWW...

HE DIDN'T
DO WHAT HE
WAS TOLD.



WHAT'S
GOING
ON WITH
ROSTEM?

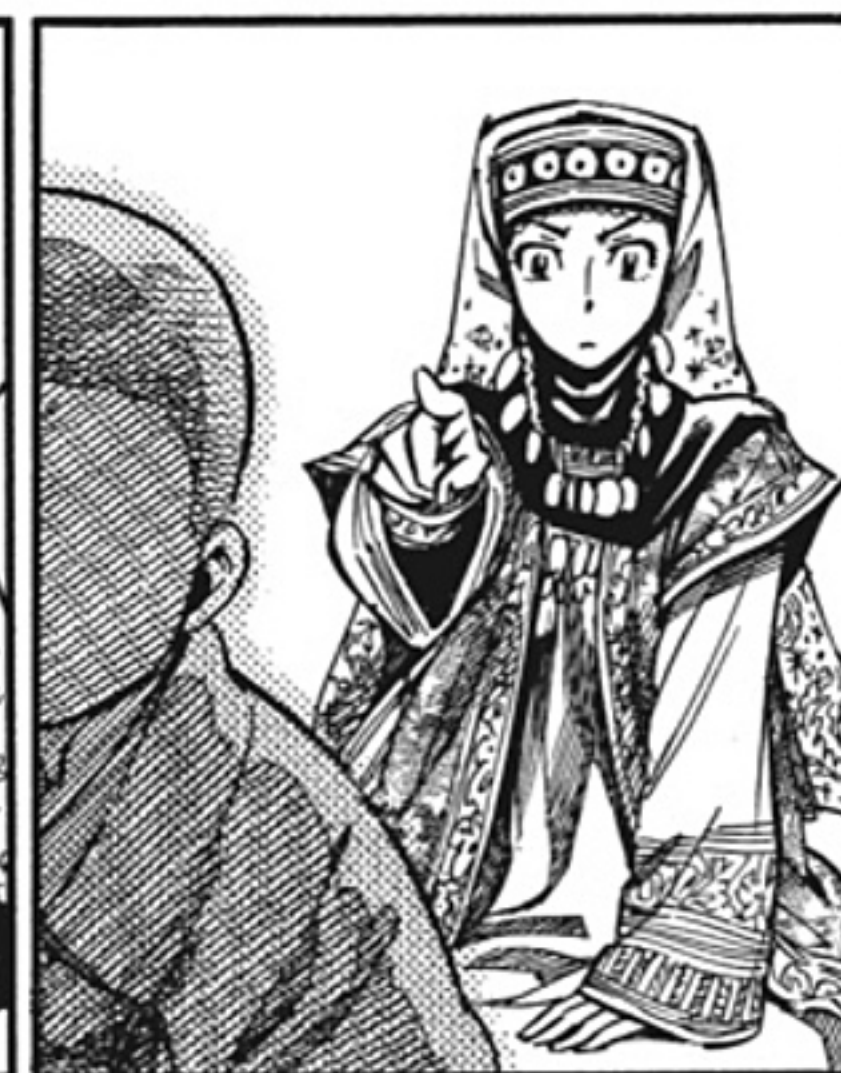


OKAY.

.....



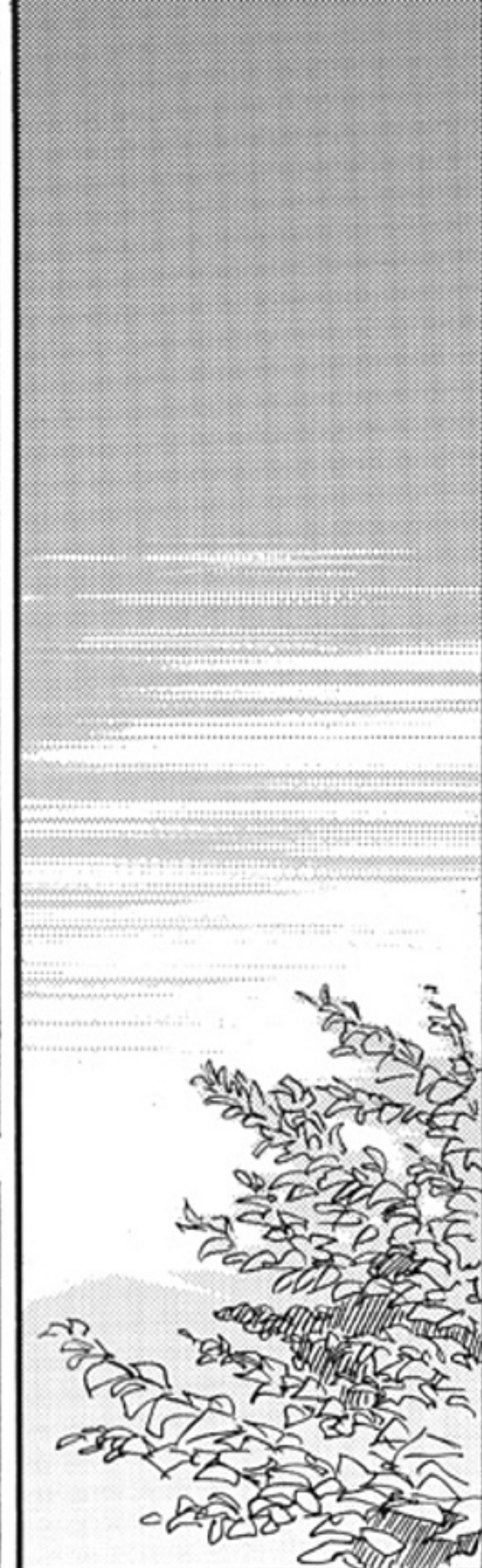
...HUH?



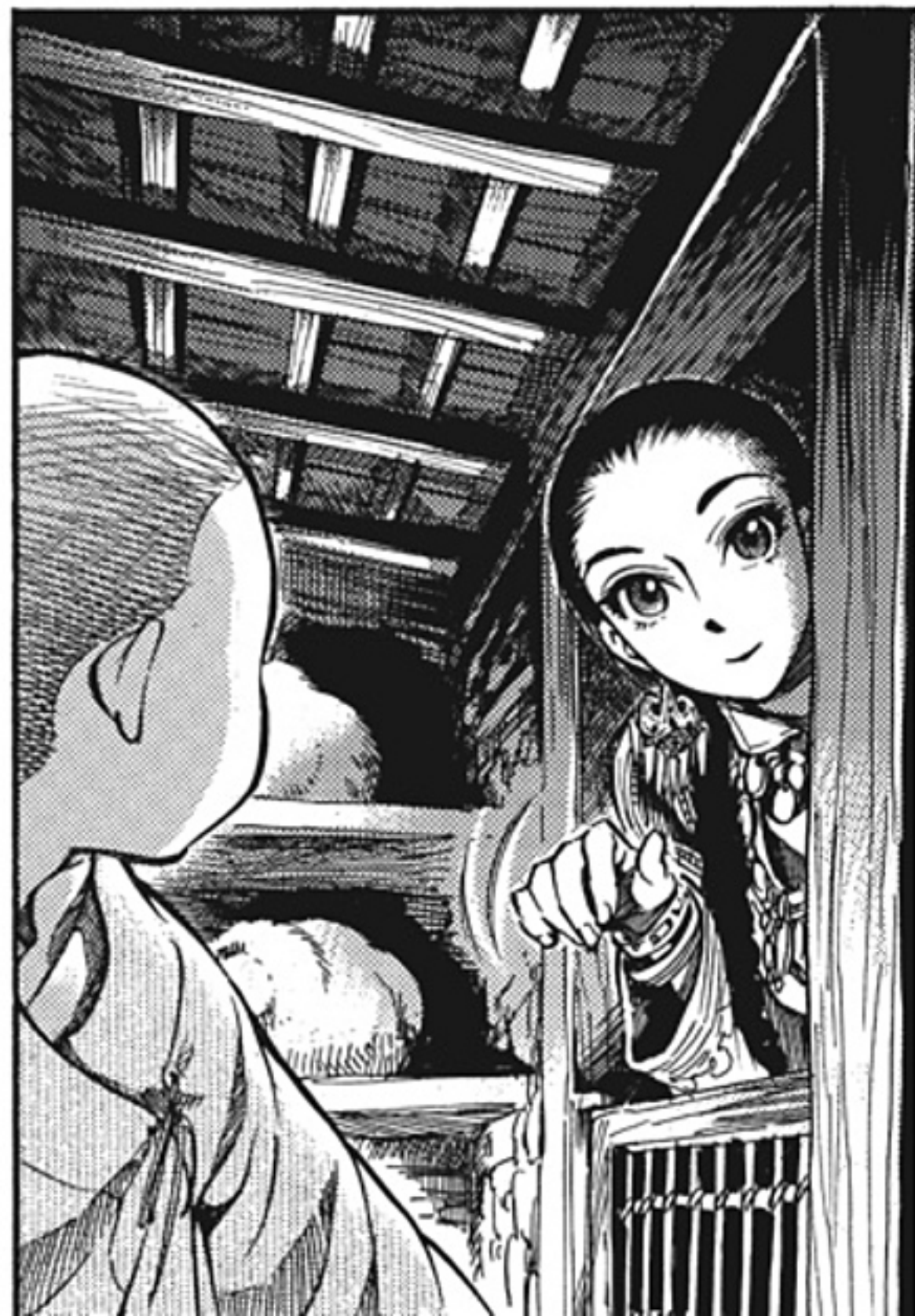
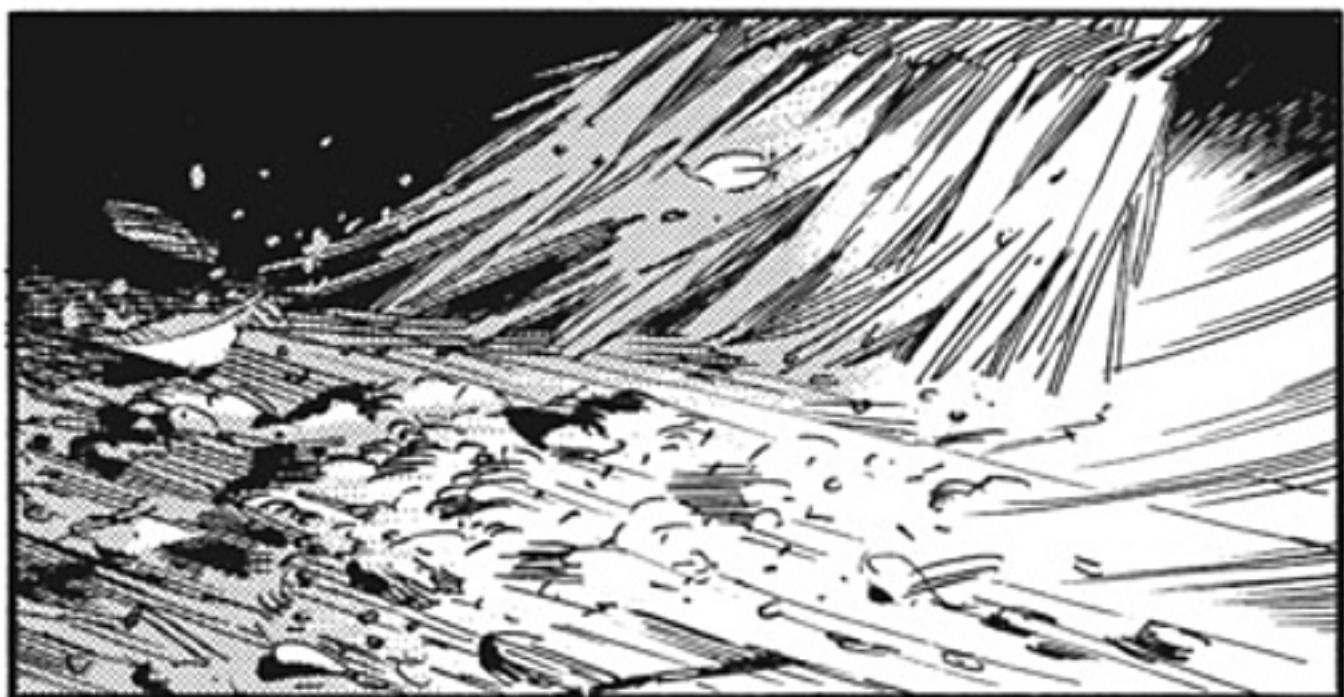
GO DO
YOUR
CHORES
RIGHT
NOW!

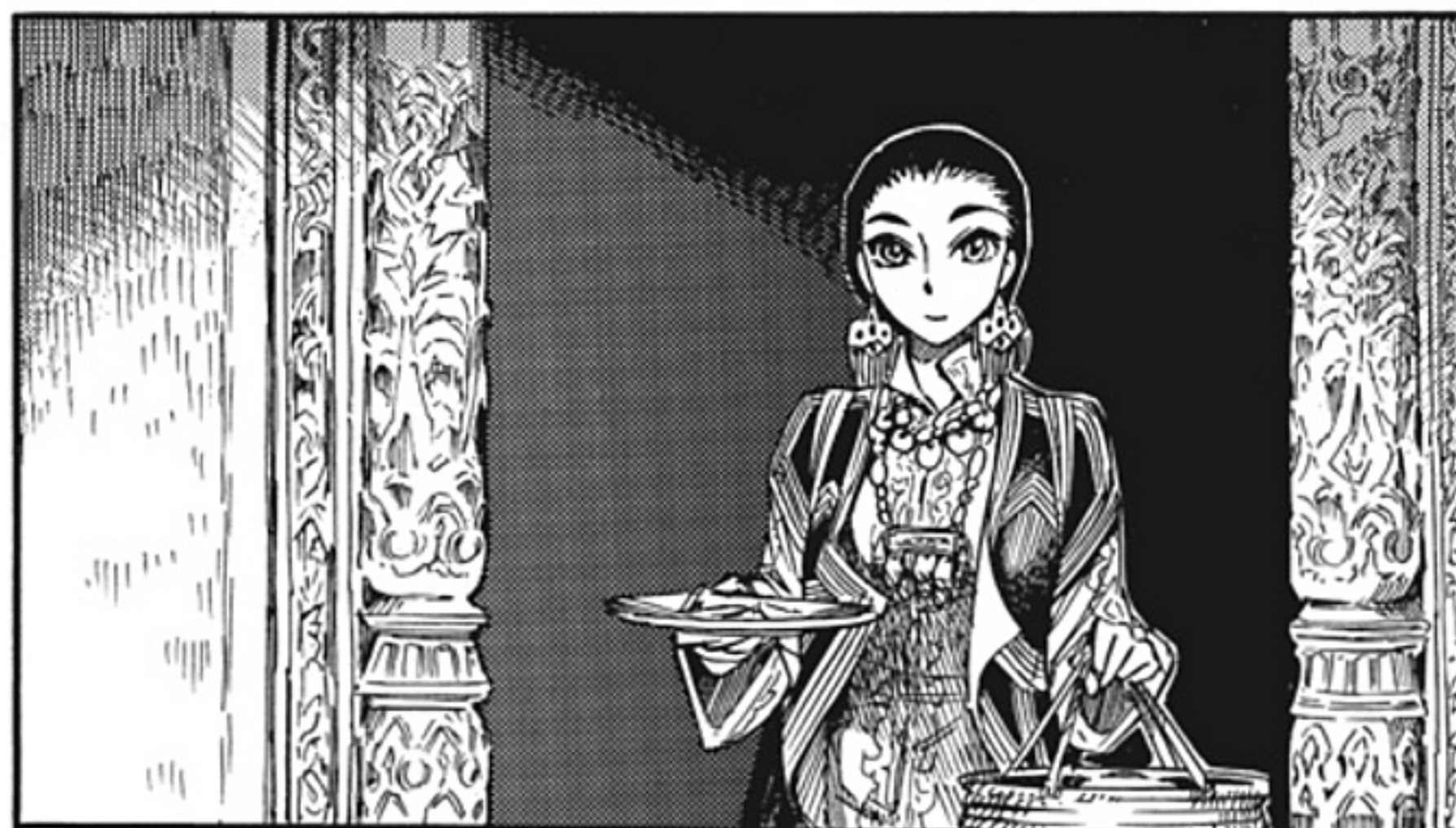
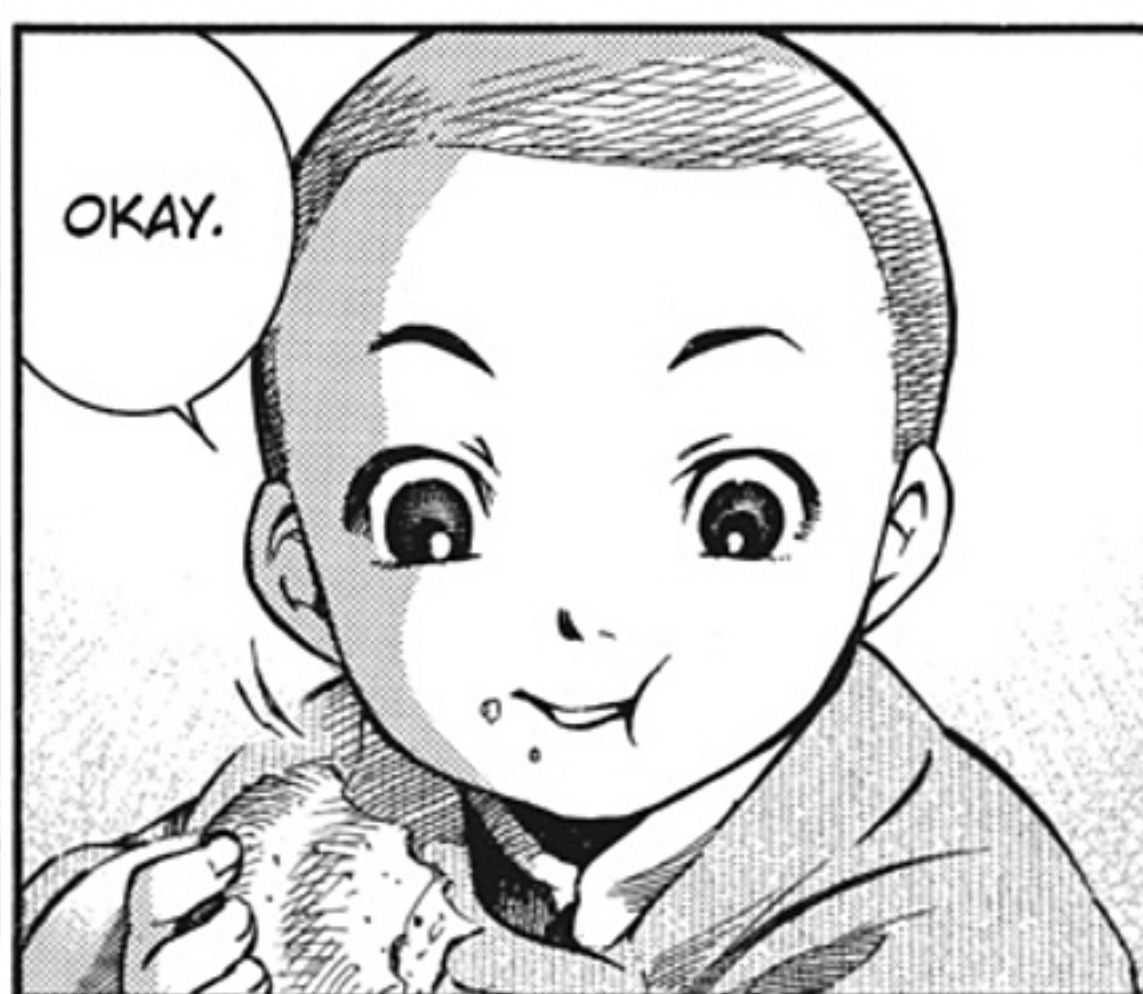
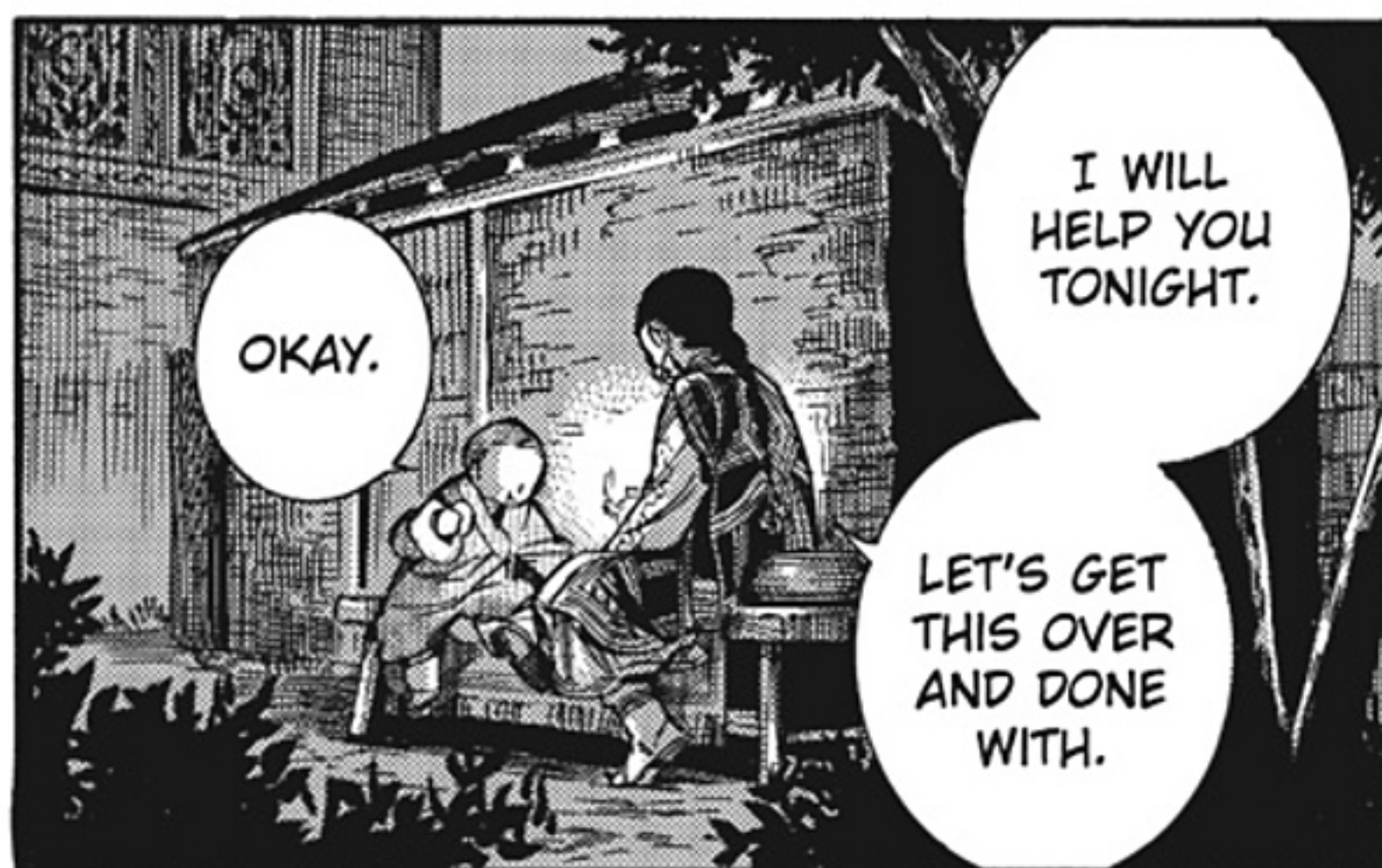
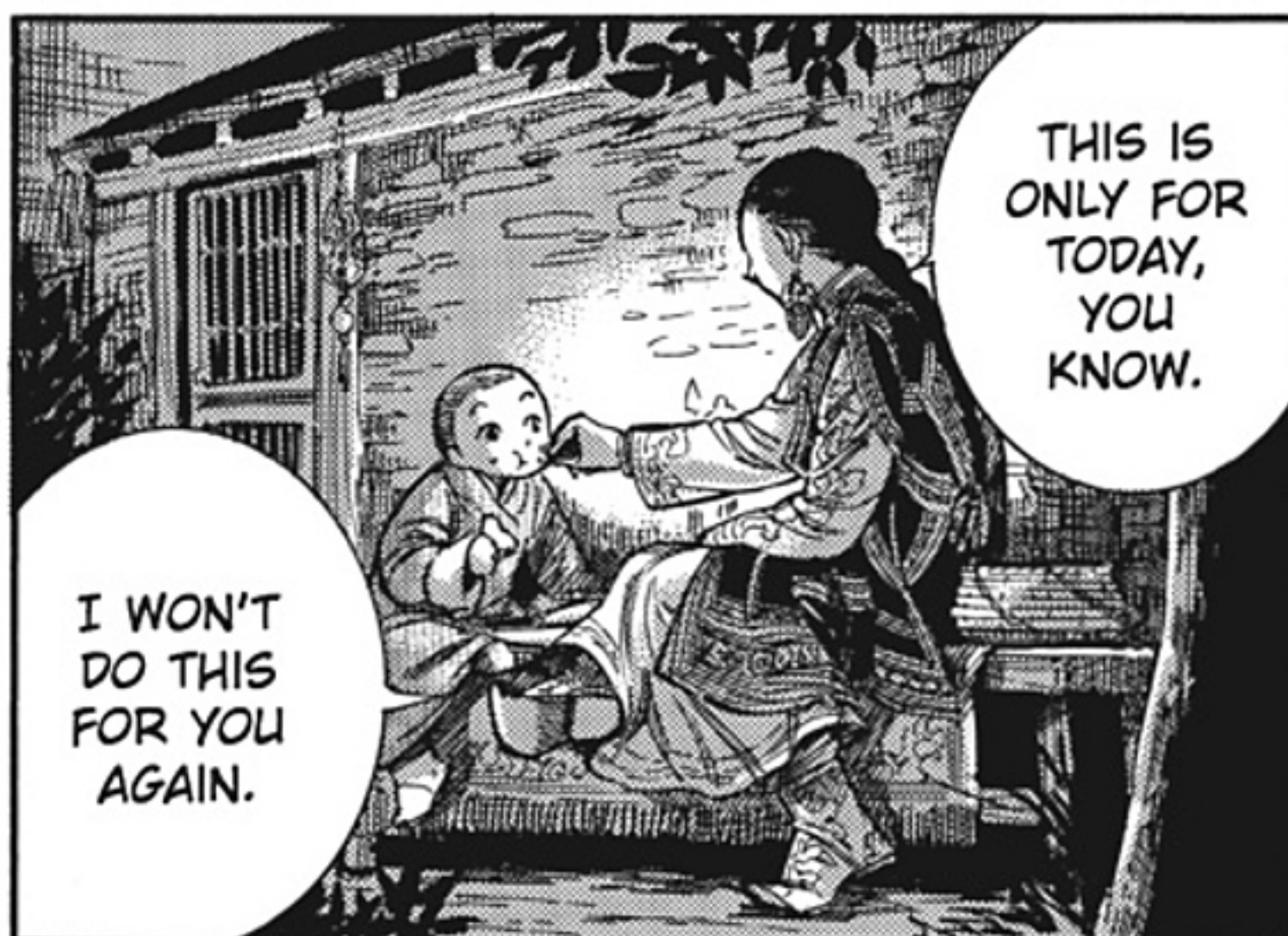
WELL!?

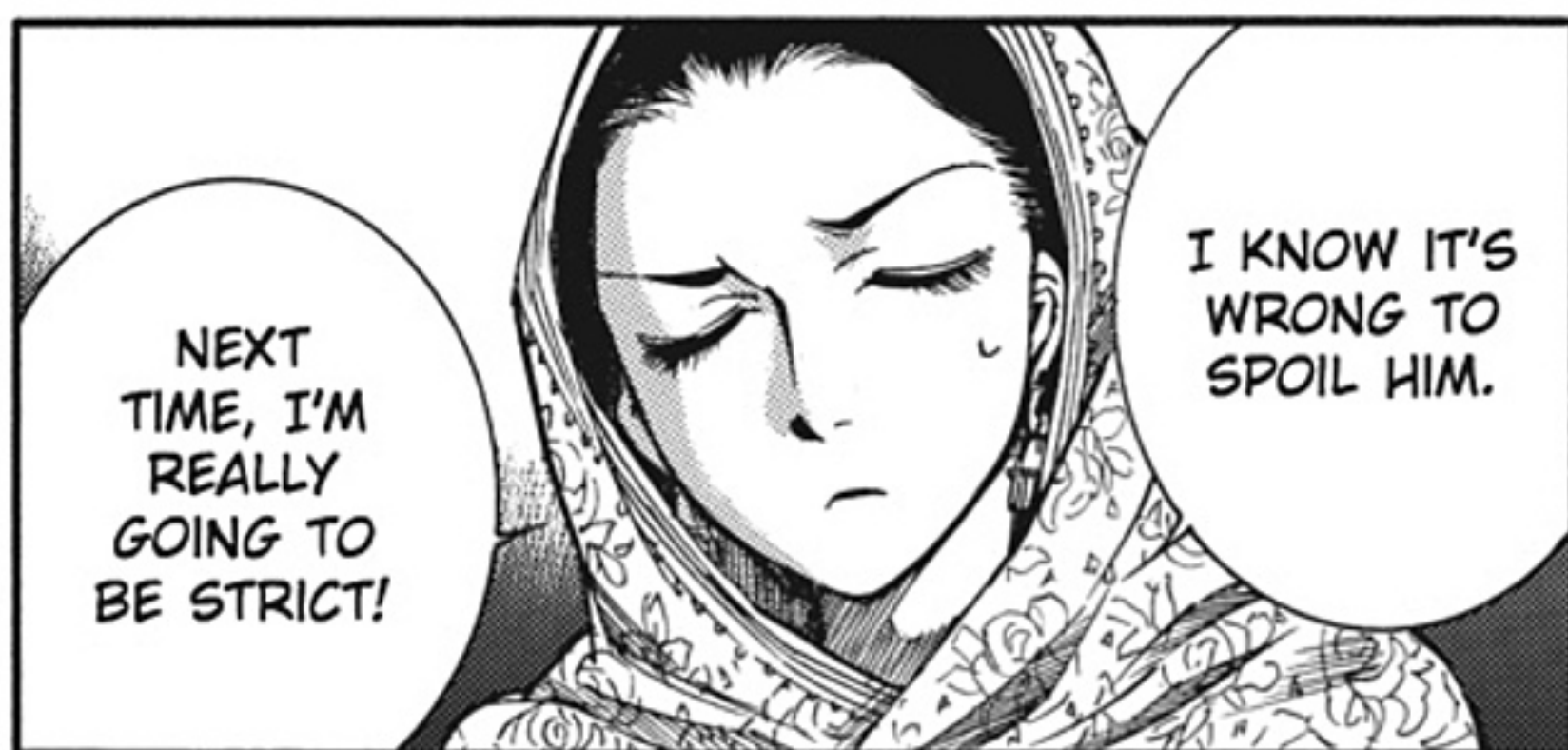
AND
THERE
WILL BE NO
SUPPER FOR
YOU UNTIL
YOU'VE
COMPLETELY
FINISHED!!

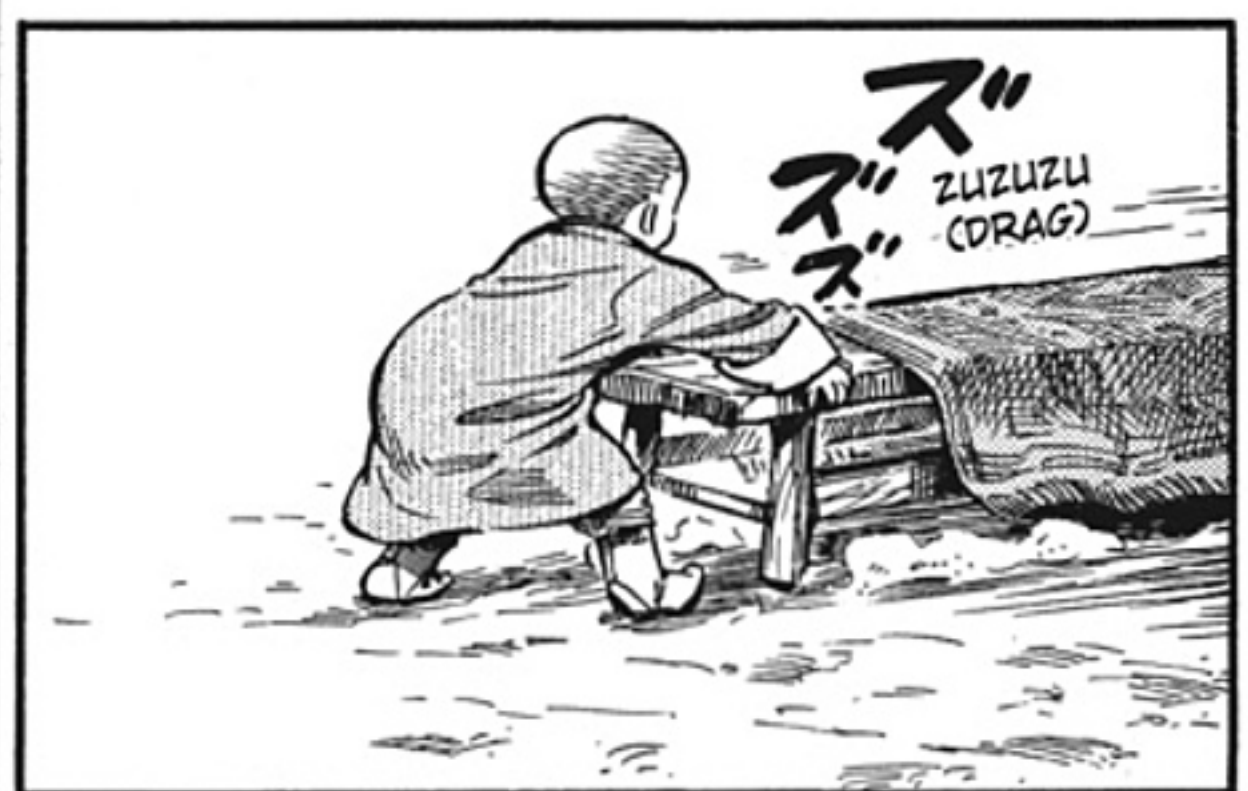
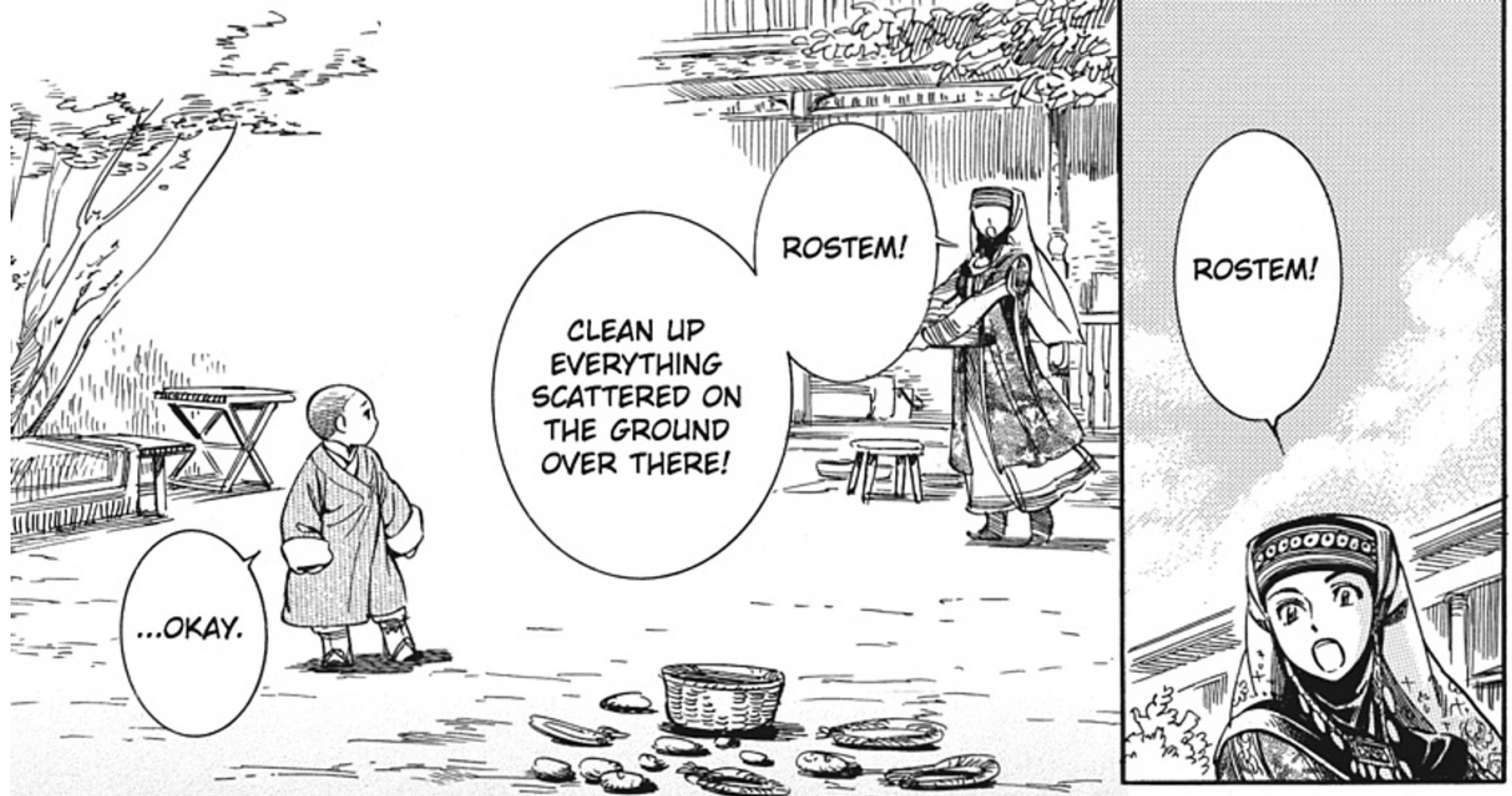




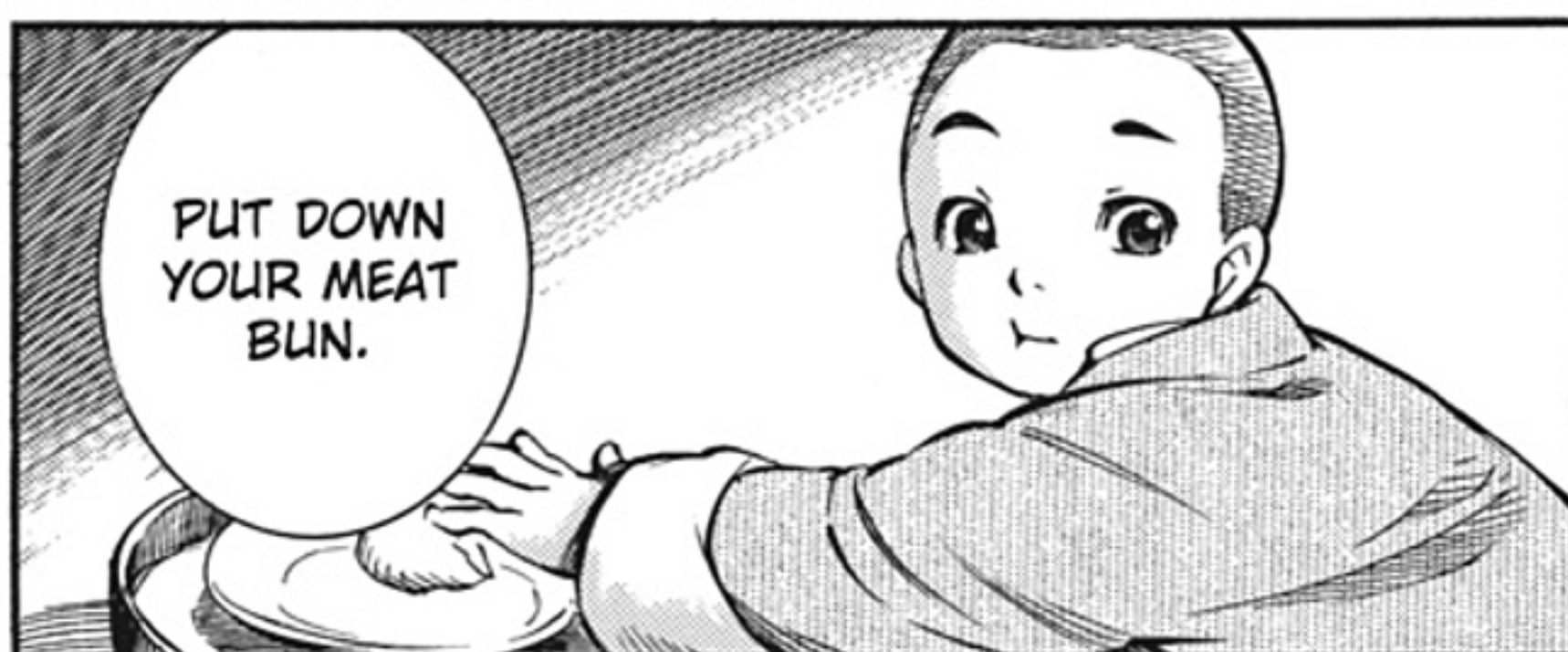


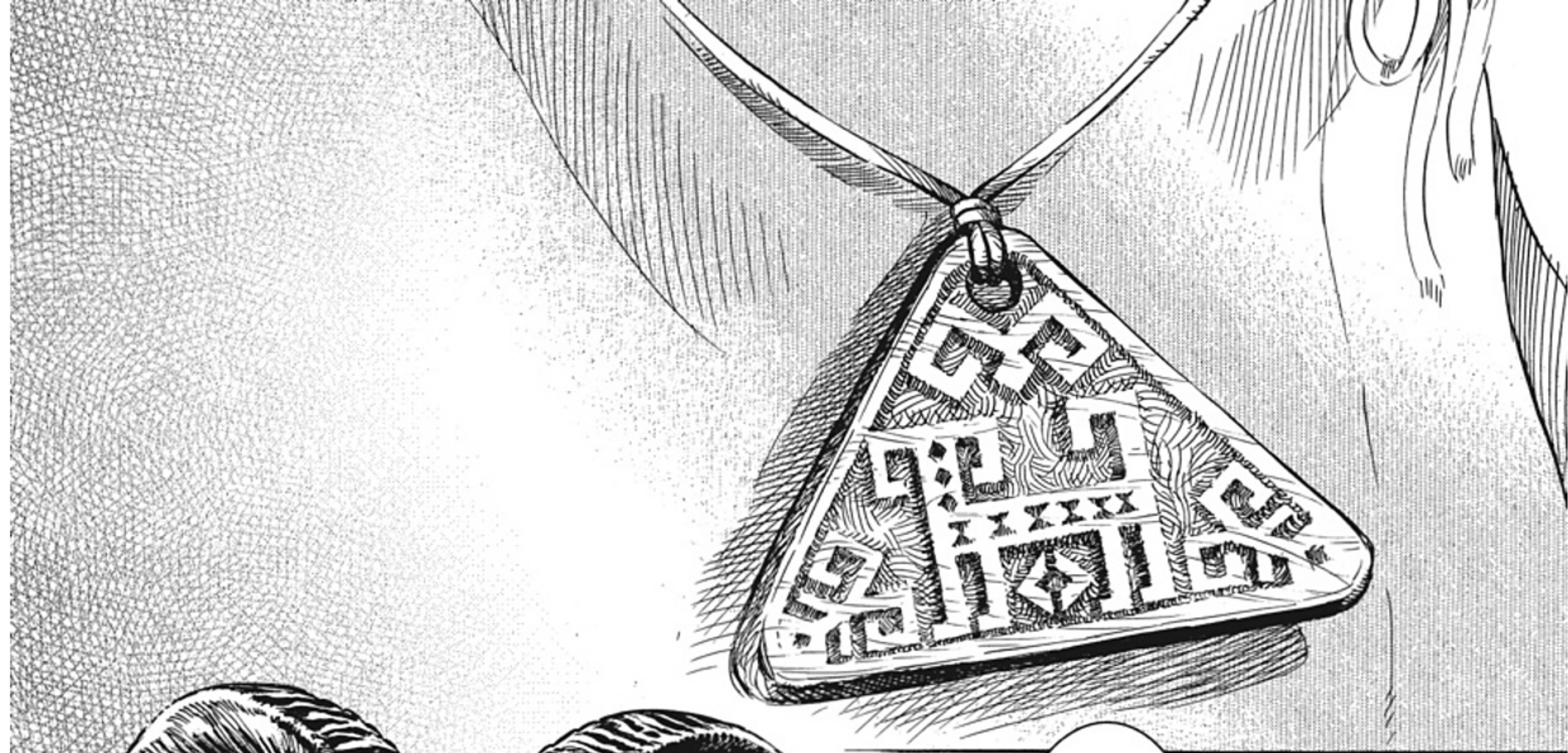








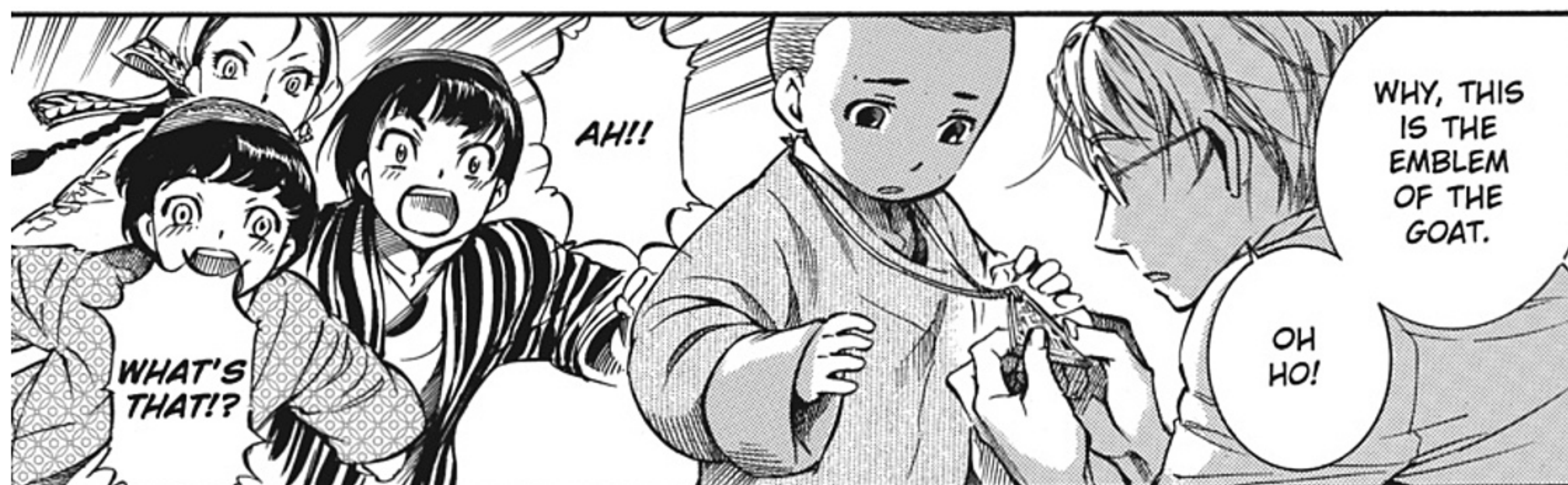
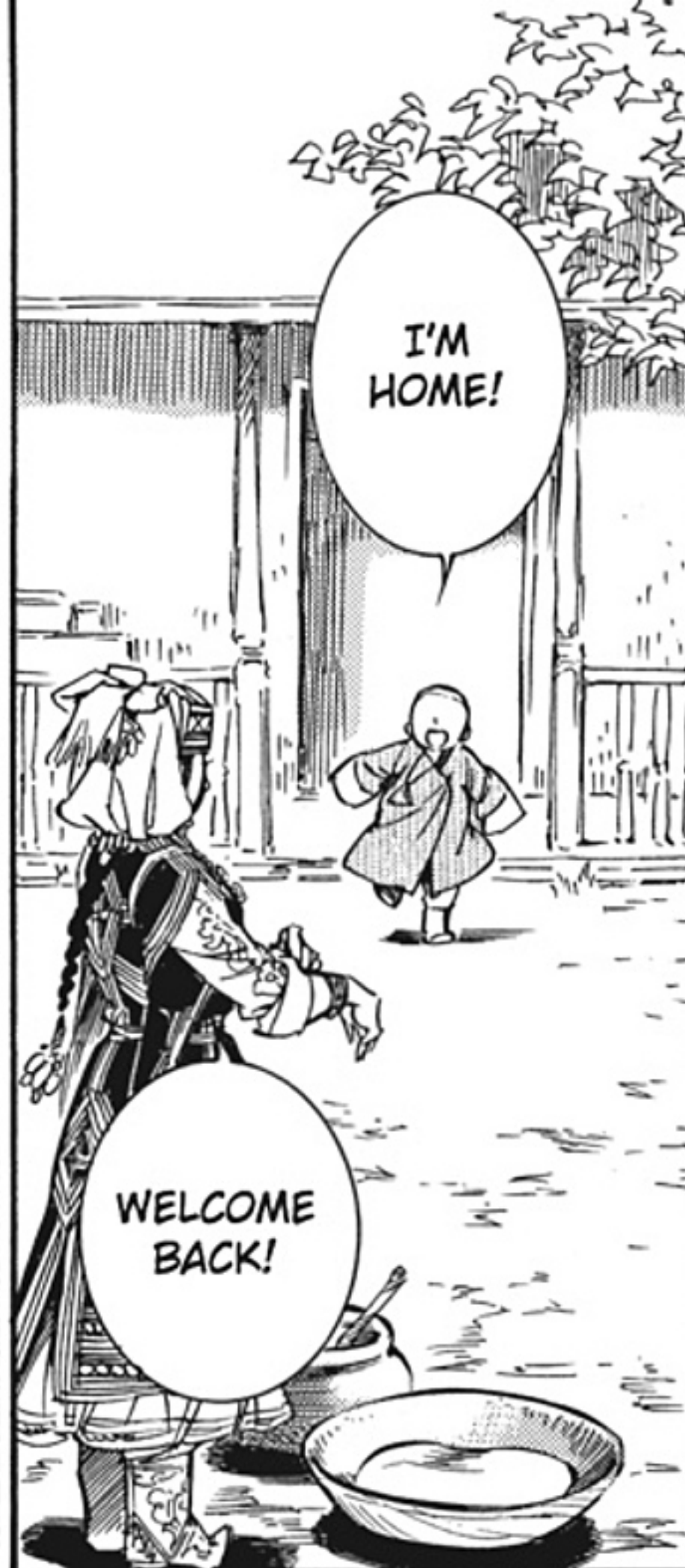




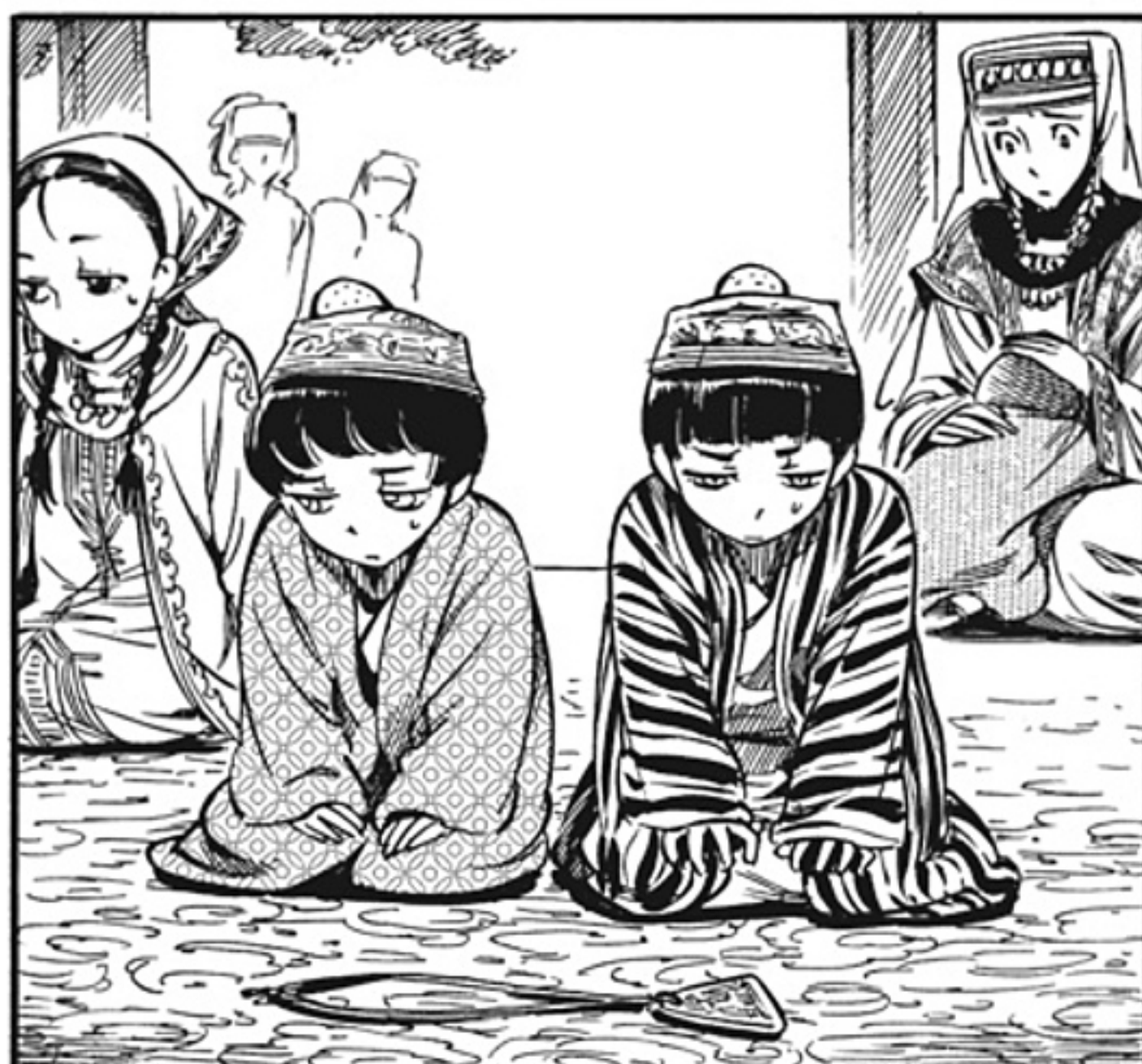
IT'S A
CHARM.

KEEP IT.

IT'S SO
YOU'LL GROW
STRONG LIKE
A GOAT.











I TOLD HIM I WOULD ONLY DO IT ONCE.

AFTER SAYING THAT, I CANNOT.



I'M AFRAID I CANNOT.



...BUT...



I EXPECTED SOMEBODY TO BRING HIM FOOD LATER!

BUT I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT HE'D GO WITHOUT FOOD!

LISTEN, YOU...



YOU SET THE PUNISHMENT YOURSELF, RIGHT?

BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!? HE HASN'T HAD A BITE TO EAT!



...YES, WELL...

I SUPPOSE NOT.



KYUUUUUU (GURGLE)



I CANNOT.





...CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS TO ME?

HE MADE HER MAD AGAIN.

AWW.



...NOW...

...PUTTING ASIDE THE MATTER OF THE TALISMAN FOR A MOMENT...



NO DINNER FOR HIM!

E H H H !?

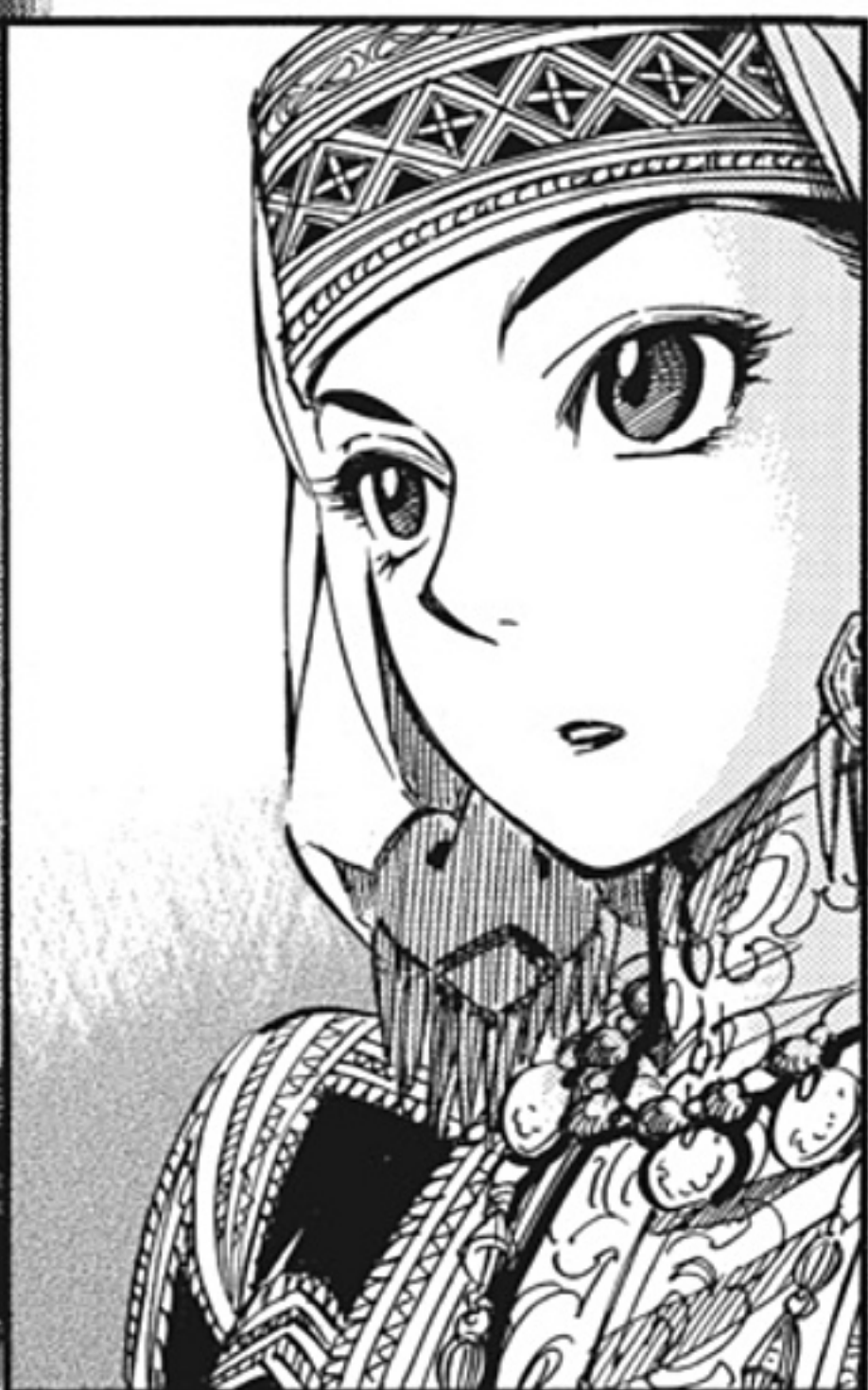
AND! NO DINNER FOR YOU!

NO DINNER!



THIS DOES NOT QUALIFY AS CLEANING UP!

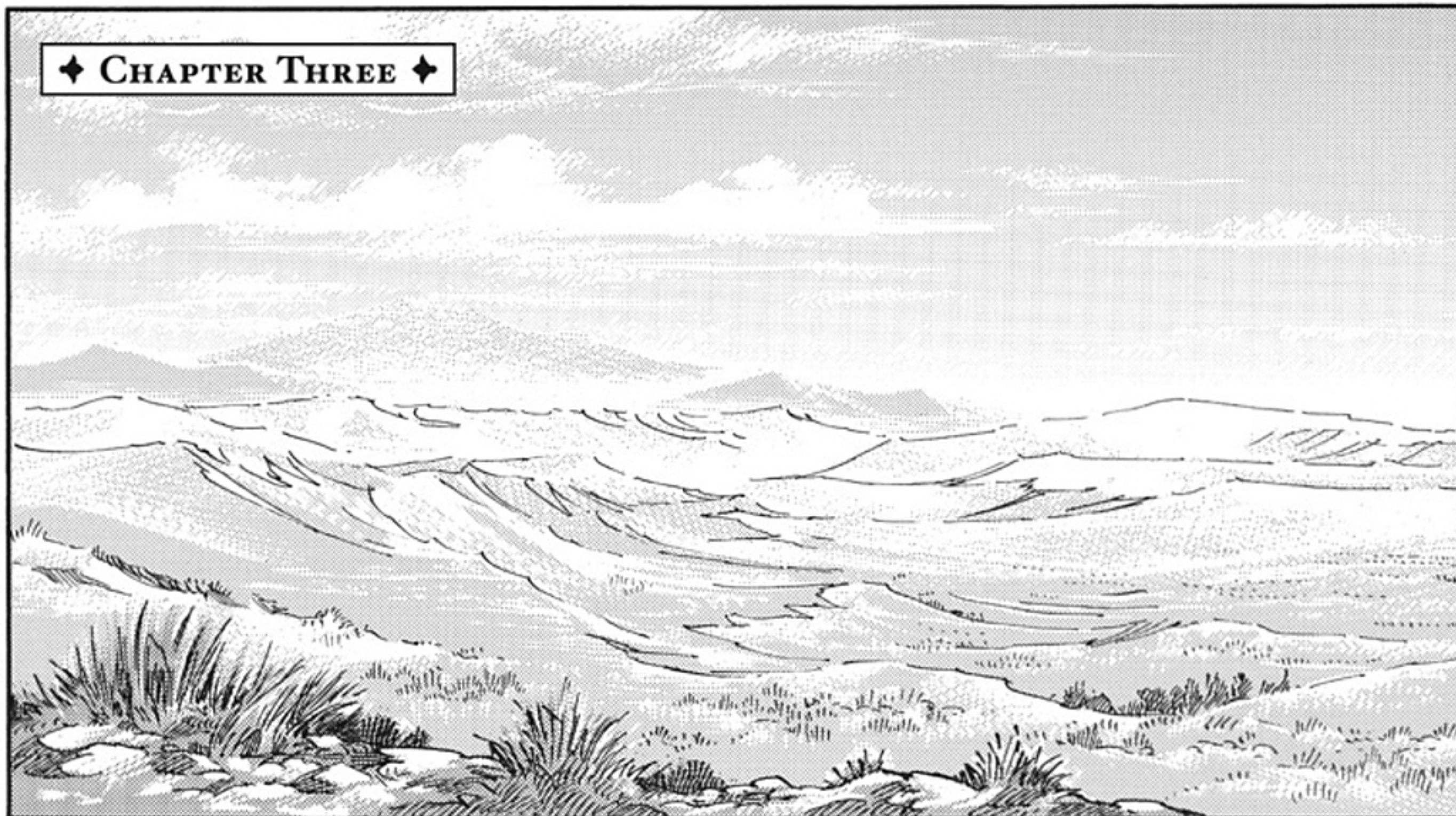
DO IT AGAIN, AND DO IT RIGHT!



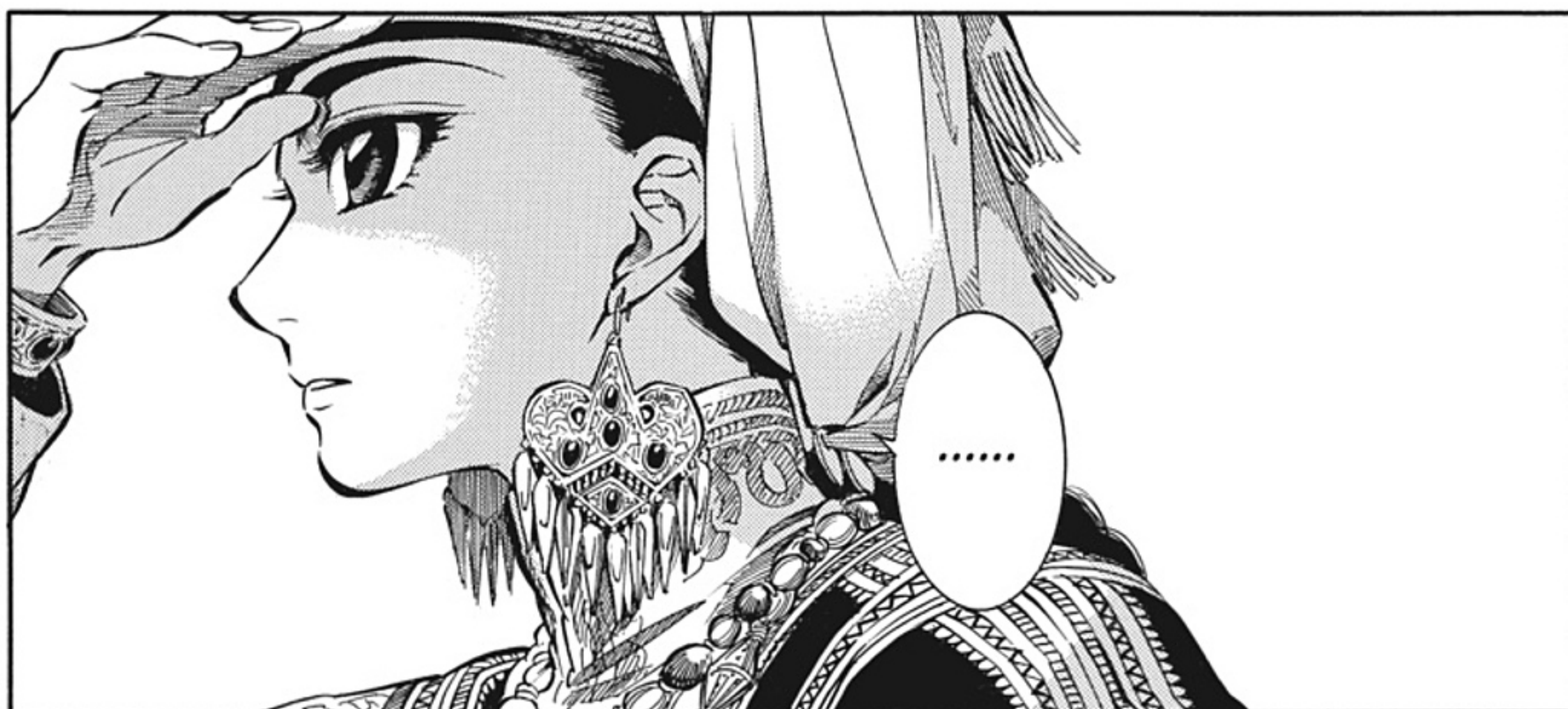
I WONDER IF THAT'S NOT A LITTLE TOO STRICT.

WHEN MY BIG SISTER GETS ANGRY, SHE TENDS TO OVERDO THE PUNISHMENTS.

◆ CHAPTER THREE ◆



DO YOU
SEE
THEM?

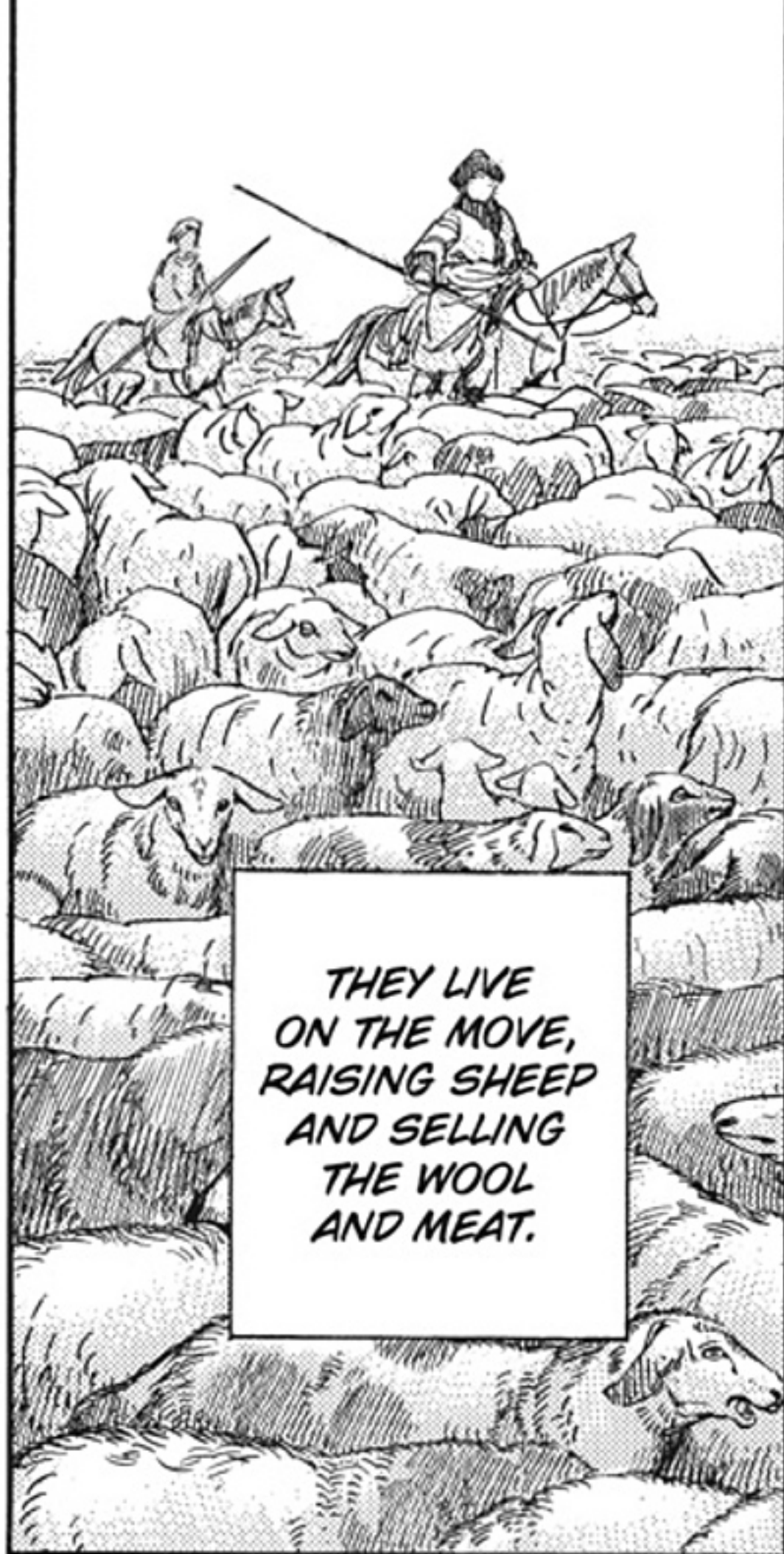




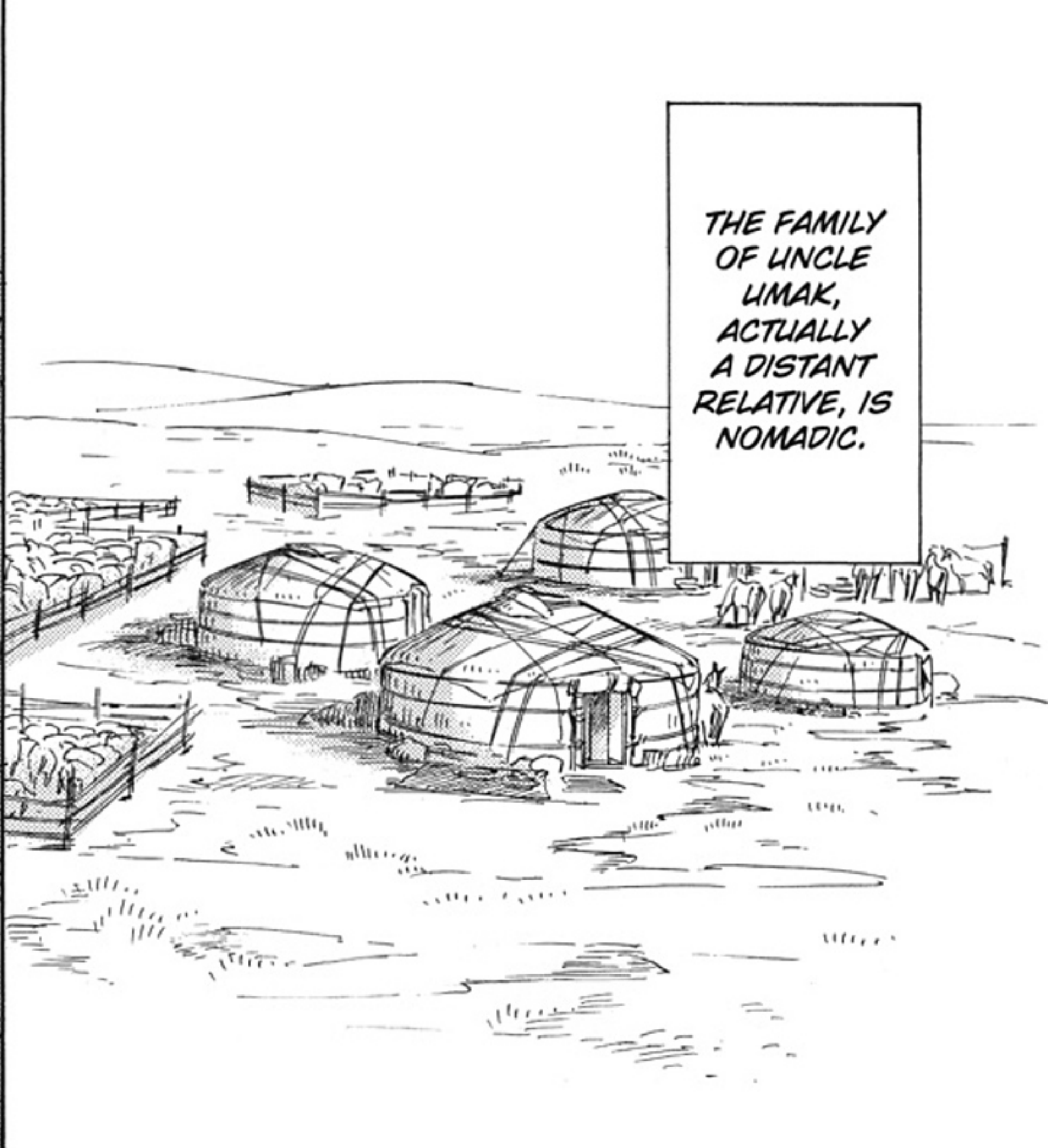
NO...

...I
DON'T.

◆
CHAPTER THREE
HORSEBACK
◆



THEY LIVE
ON THE MOVE,
RAISING SHEEP
AND SELLING
THE WOOL
AND MEAT.



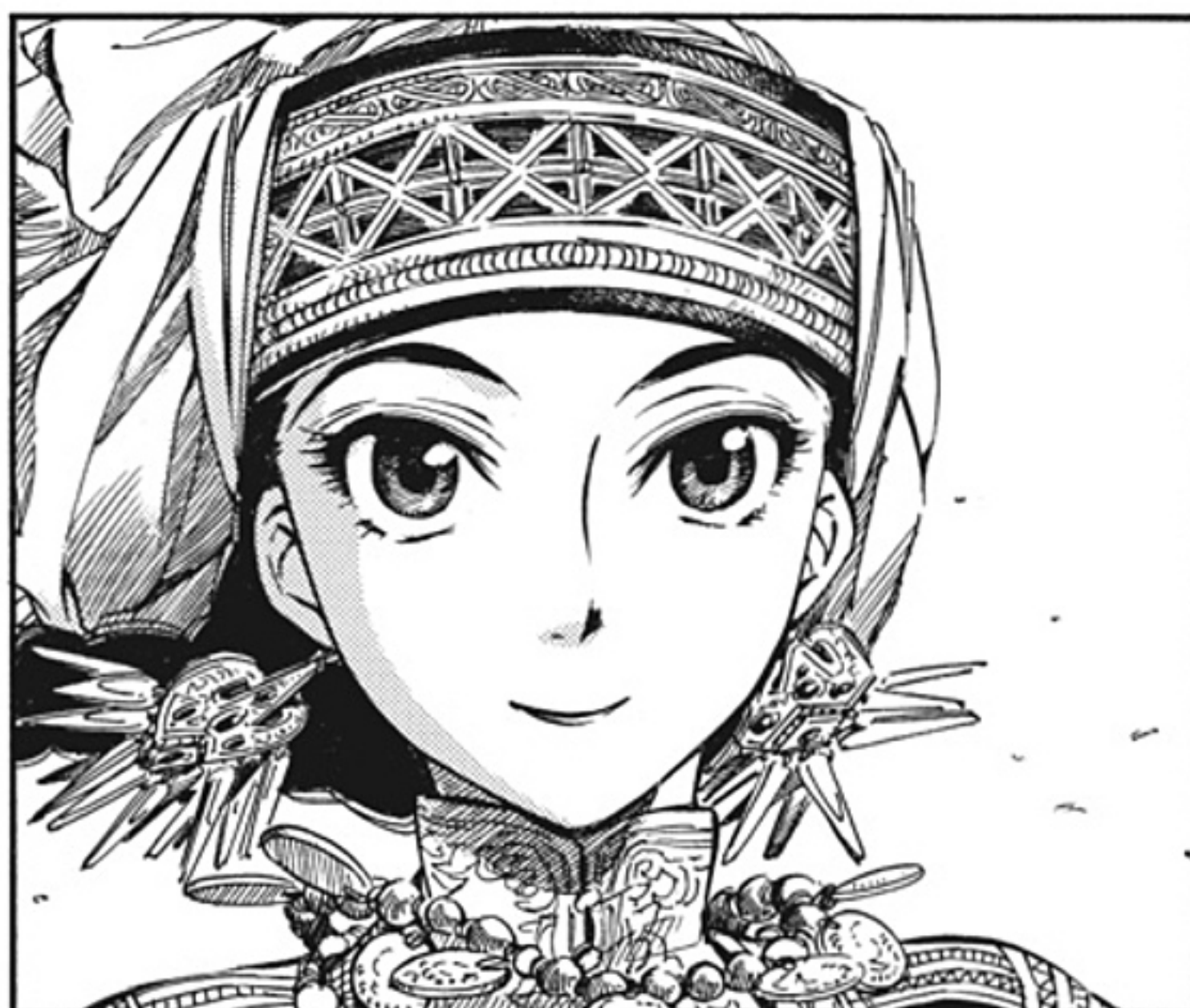
THE FAMILY
OF UNCLE
UMAK,
ACTUALLY
A DISTANT
RELATIVE, IS
NOMADIC.



THEY HAD
TROUBLE
WITH GRAZING
RIGHTS AND
SUCH.

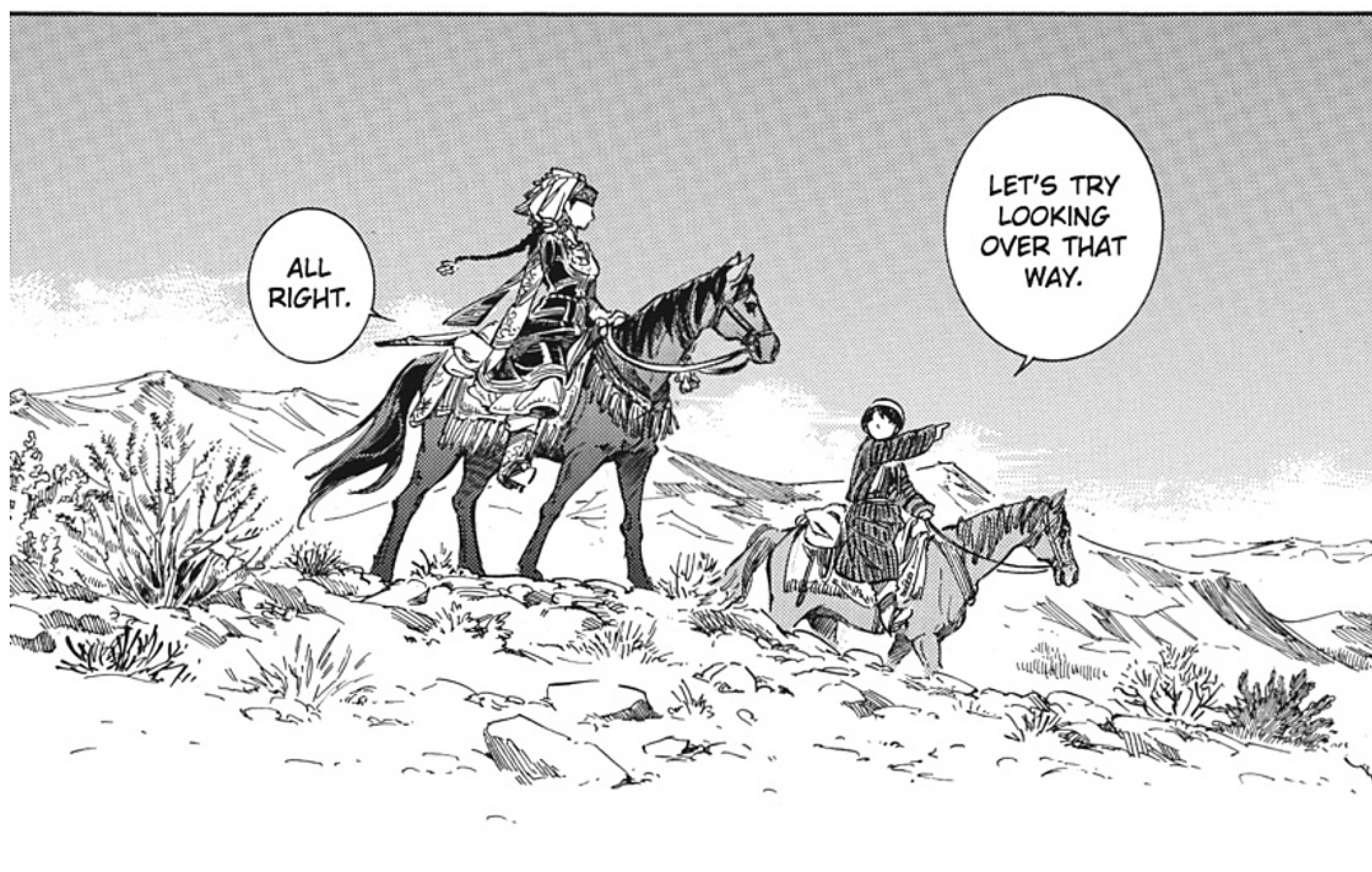
...BUT
THEY MOVED
WEST QUITE
A WHILE
BACK.

THEY
WERE IN
THIS AREA
A LONG
TIME
AGO...



BUT I
HEARD
THEY HAD
COME BACK
THIS WAY.

FATHER
LEARNED
ABOUT IT
FROM A
TRAVELING
PEDDLER.



...A
BEAUTIFULLY
CRAFTED
DAGGER
SHEATH.

WITH THAT,
FATHER
BROUGHT
IT OUT...

WELL,
THAT'S
WONDERFUL
NEWS.

NOW
I CAN
FINALLY
GIVE IT
TO HIM.

THEN WHY
DON'T I
DELIVER IT
FOR YOU?

WHAT?

AND IT'S
NOT SOME-
THING I CAN
ENTRUST TO
A STRANGER
TO DELIVER.

...BUT HE
WENT ON
THE MOVE
BEFORE IT
WAS
FINISHED.

HE
ASKED ME
IF I COULD
HAVE ONE
MADE...

.....

WELL,
YOU MAKE
A GOOD
POINT...

...IS
THAT
SO?

I WILL.

AND
TELL HIM
THAT I LOOK
FORWARD TO
SEEING HIM
IN PERSON
SOON.

SO THE
TIMING IS
PERFECT.

RIGHT?

I'VE MET
UNCLE UMAK
BEFORE.

AND I
HAVE TO
INTRODUCE
MYSELF AS
A MARRIED
MAN NOW.



NOT
HERE
EITHER,
EH?

.....



AND THAT'S
HOW WE
CAME TO BE
OUT HERE
SEARCHING.



OR
PERHAPS
THE NOMADS
THE PEDDLER
SAW
WEREN'T
THEM.

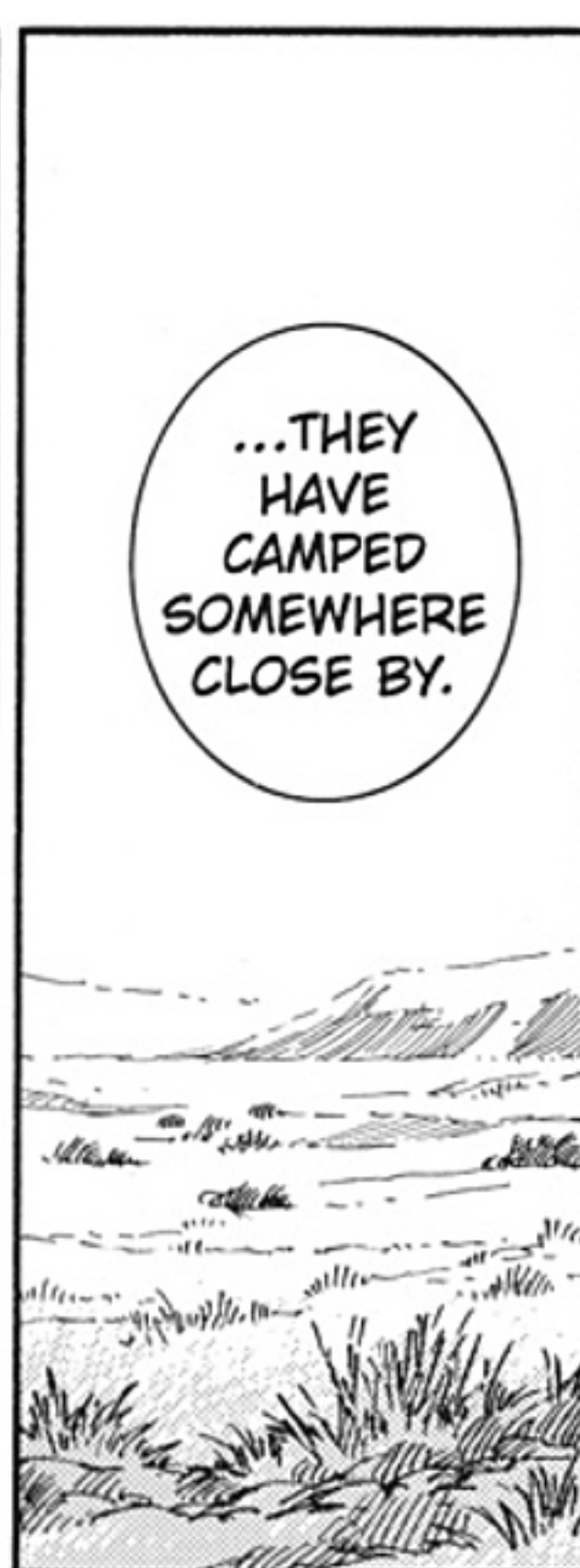
I GUESS
THEY DIDN'T
COME BACK
AFTER ALL.



WE MAY BE
UNABLE TO
SPOT THEM
TODAY...

LET'S
JUST
TAKE OUR
TIME AND
SEARCH.

...BUT
WE COULD
RETURN
SOME OTHER
DAY AND FIND
THEM HERE.



...THEY
HAVE
CAMPED
SOMEWHERE
CLOSE BY.



WHEN A
FAMILY CHANGES
THEIR NOMADIC
ROUTE, THEY TEND
TO MOVE AROUND
LITTLE BY LITTLE,
TESTING THE
LAY OF THE
LAND.

IT MIGHT
MEAN
THAT, EVEN
THOUGH
THEY ARE
NOT HERE
NOW...



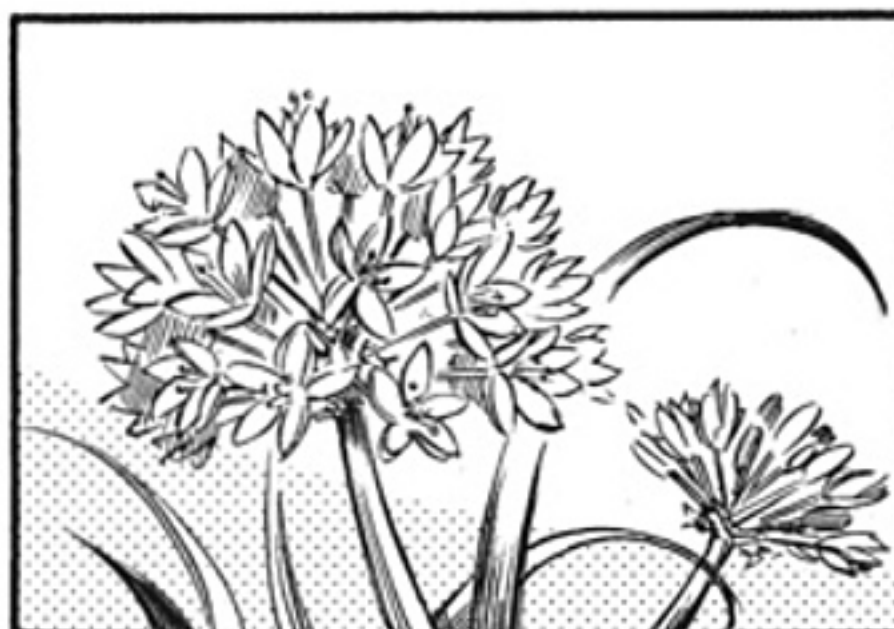
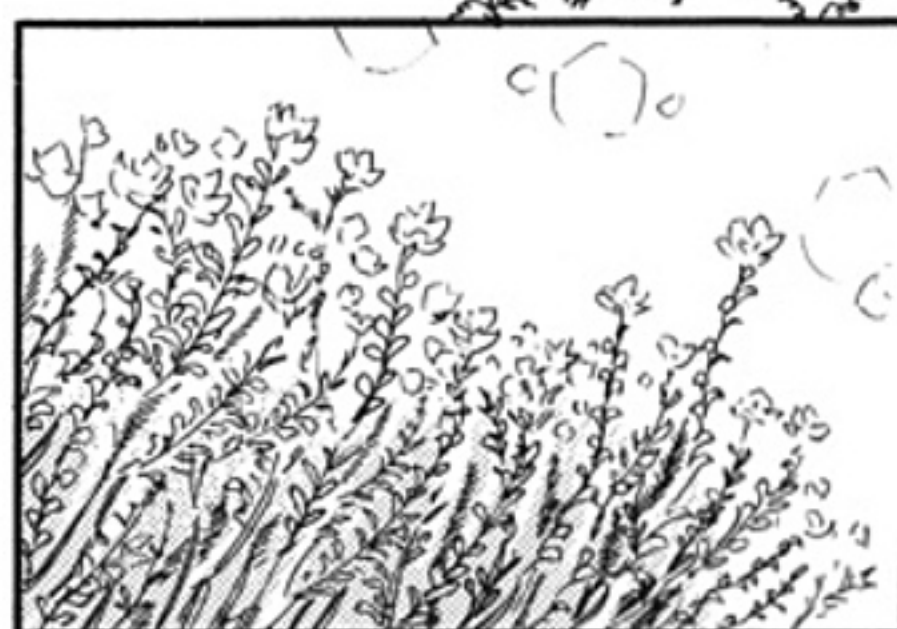
YES, BUT
ONLY IN
SUMMER.

SO THE
CLAN YOU
GREW UP
IN WAS
NOMADIC?



.....

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



WHEN THE
MOONLIGHT
POURS
DOWN...

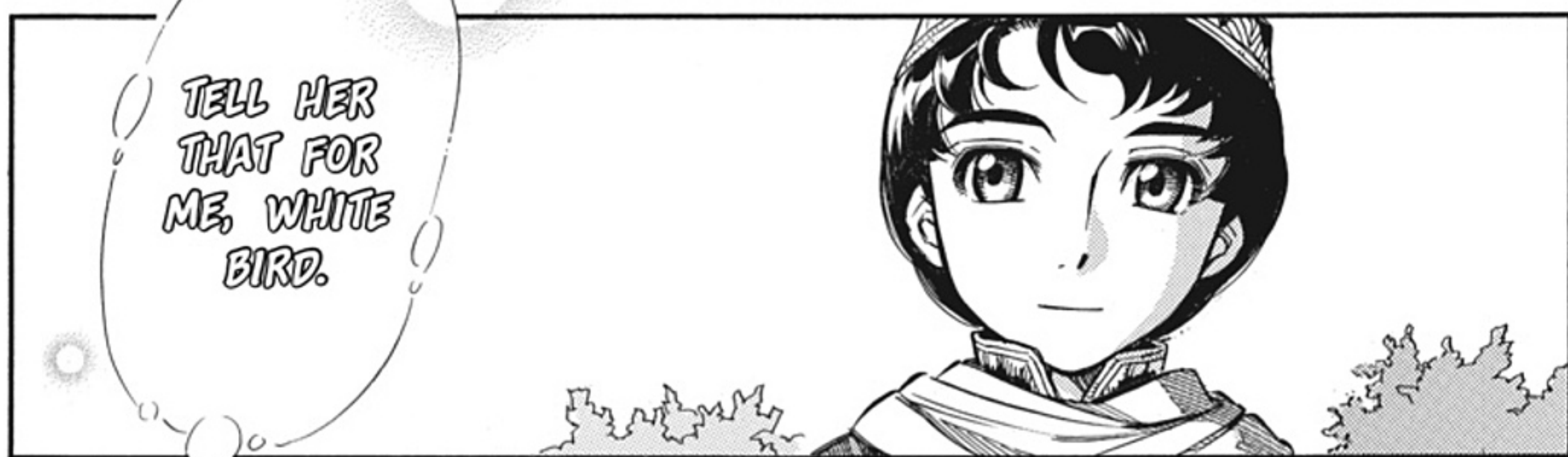
...WE'LL
GO TO
OUR TENT
TO SPEND
THE
NIGHT.

BEYOND
THIS
MOUNTAIN,
TO THAT
FARAWAY
LAND...



I'LL BE
GOING TO
WHERE
THAT YOUNG
GIRL IS.

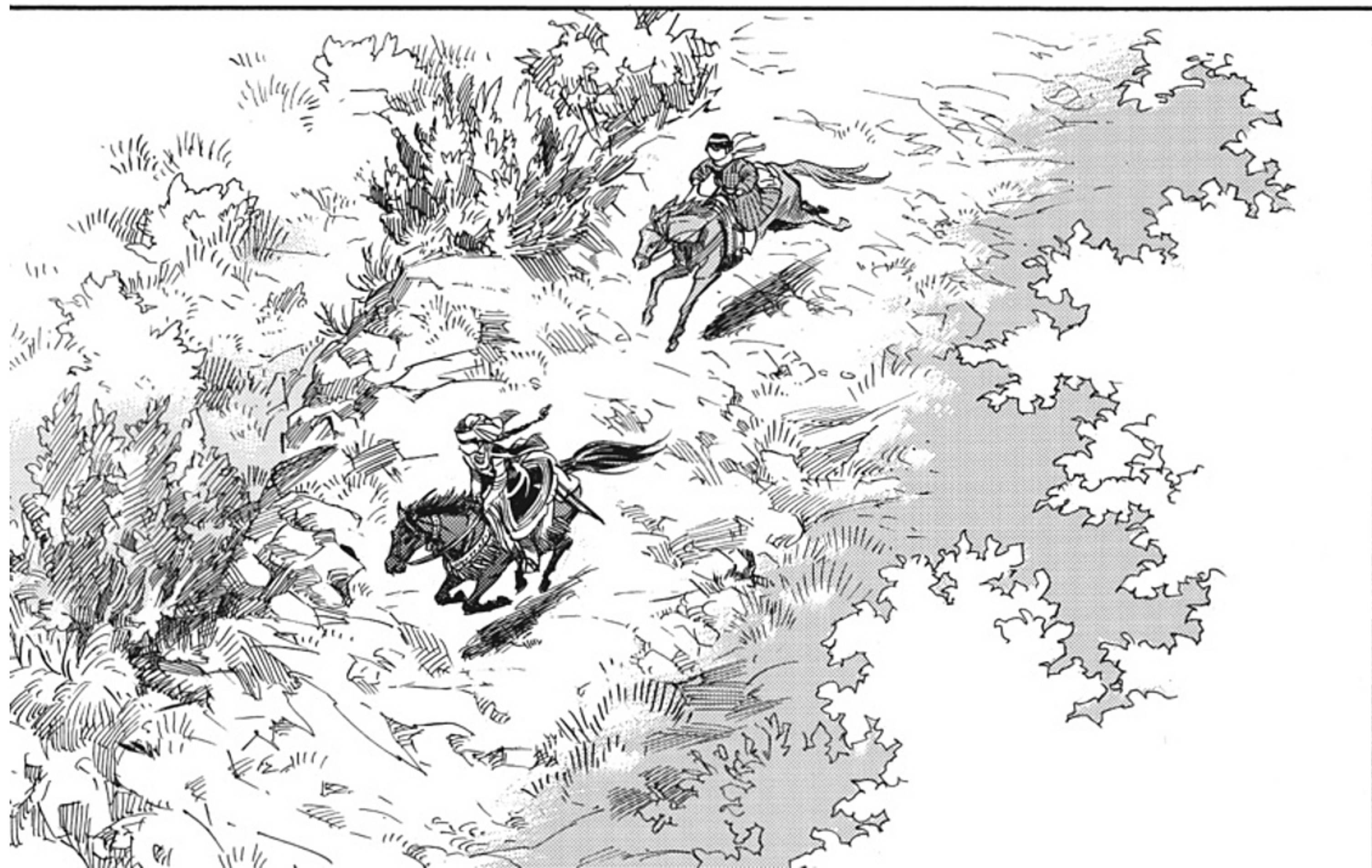
...THE
WHITE
BIRD CRIES
FROM ITS
BRANCH.

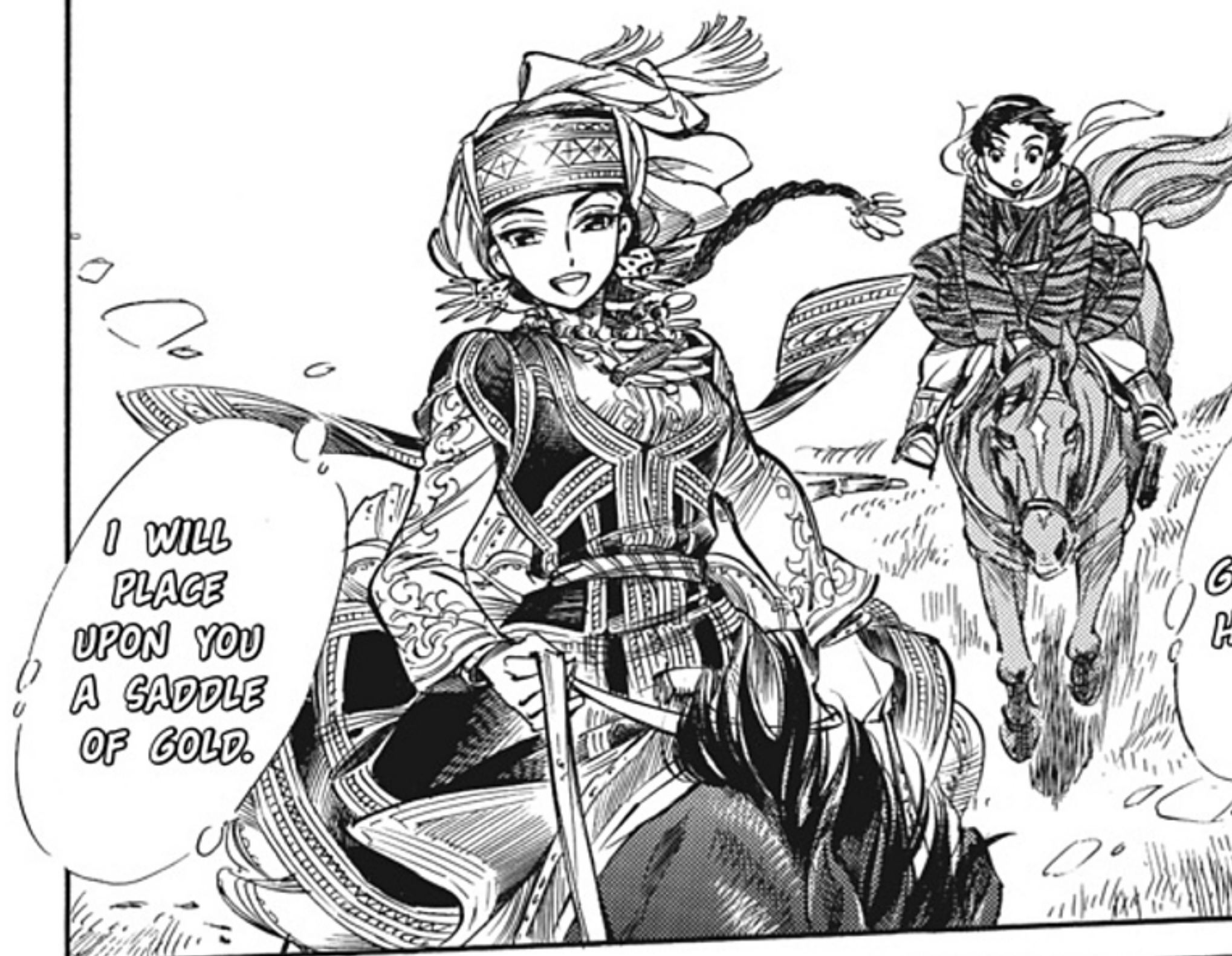


TELL HER
THAT FOR
ME, WHITE
BIRD.



THAT'S A
PRETTY
SONG.





I WILL
PLACE
UPON YOU
A SADDLE
OF GOLD.

MY
HORSE
IS...

...A
GOLDEN
HORSE.



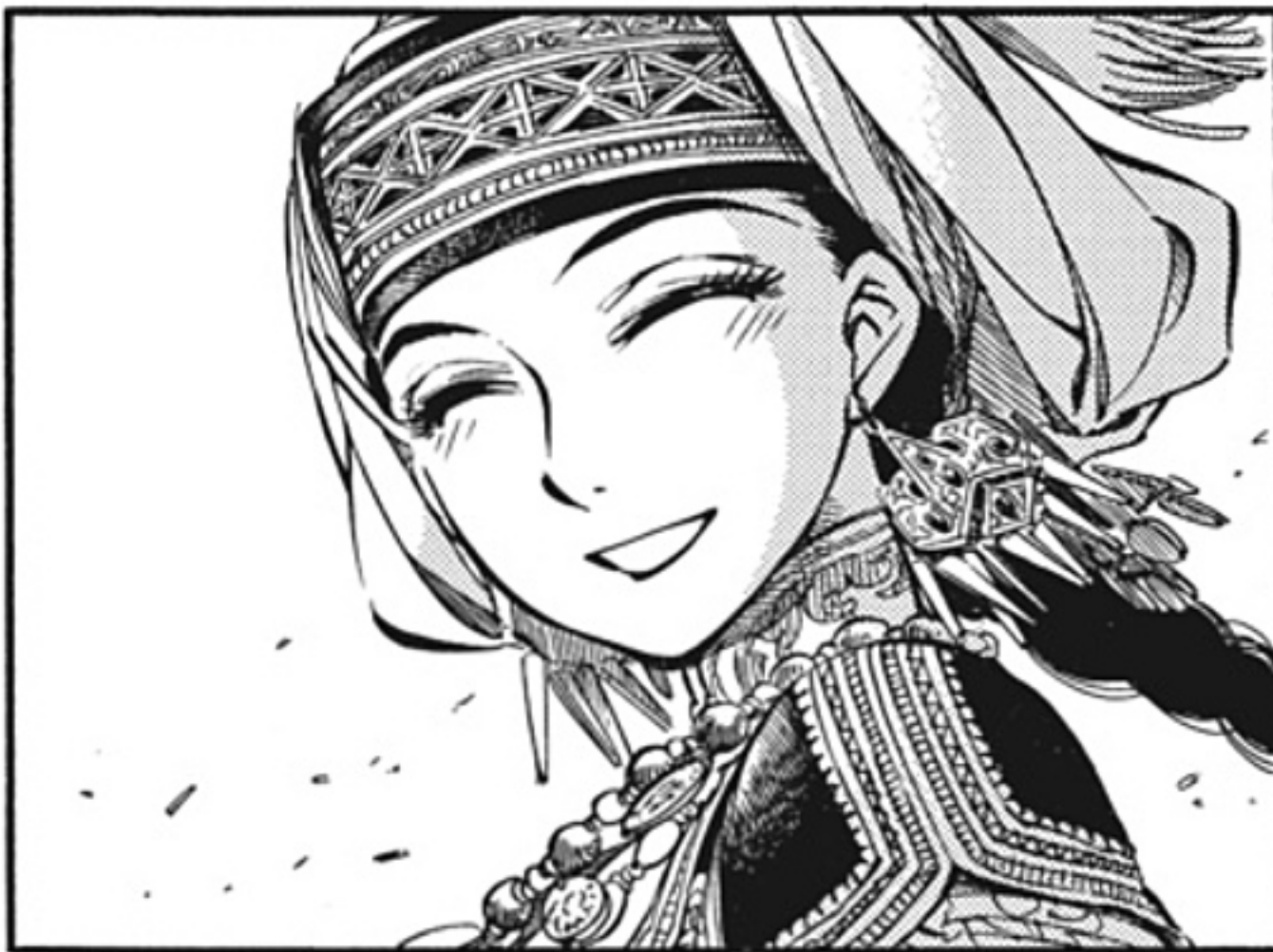
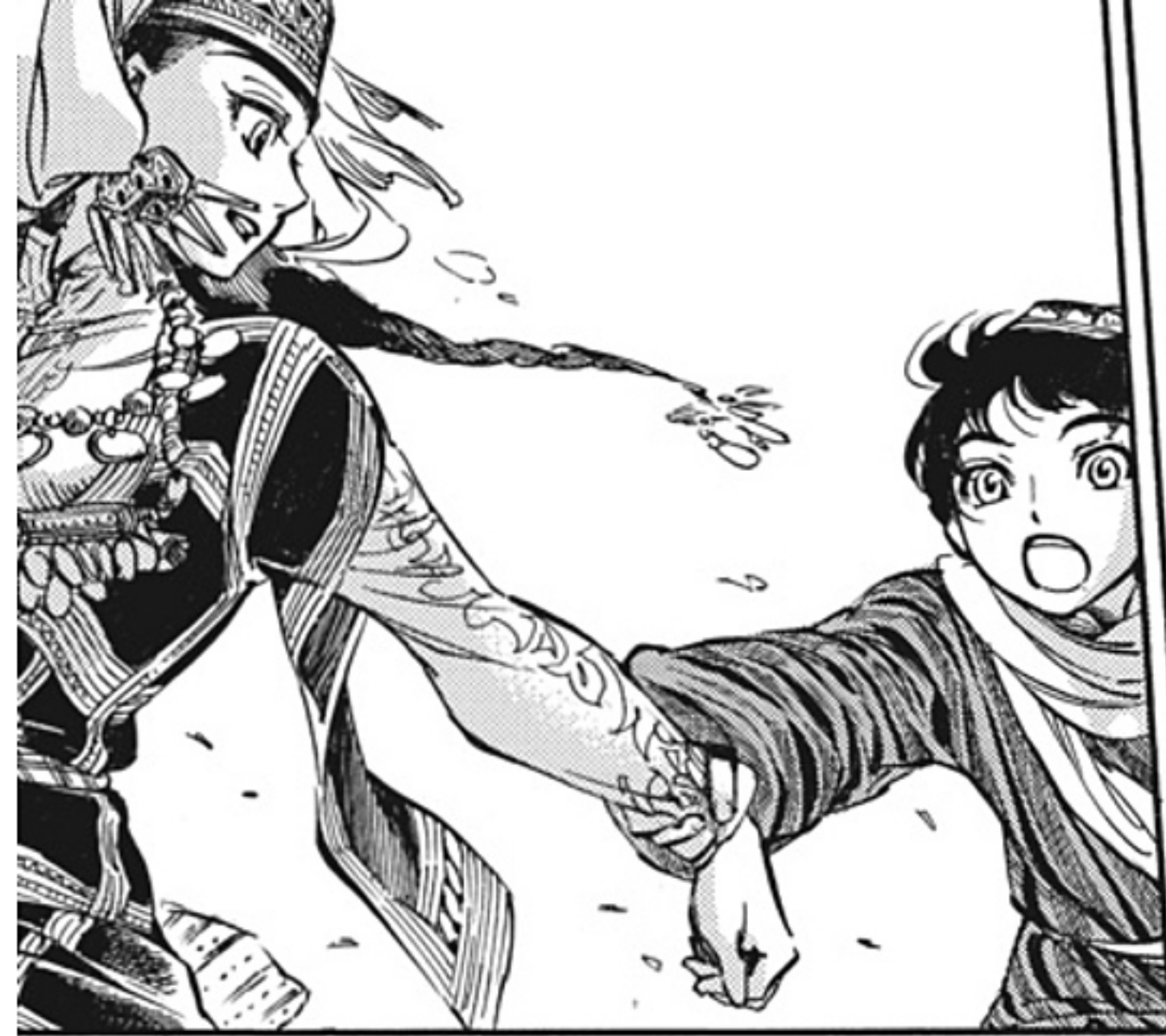
...YOU SOAR
ACROSS
THE GRASSY
GREEN
PLAINS.

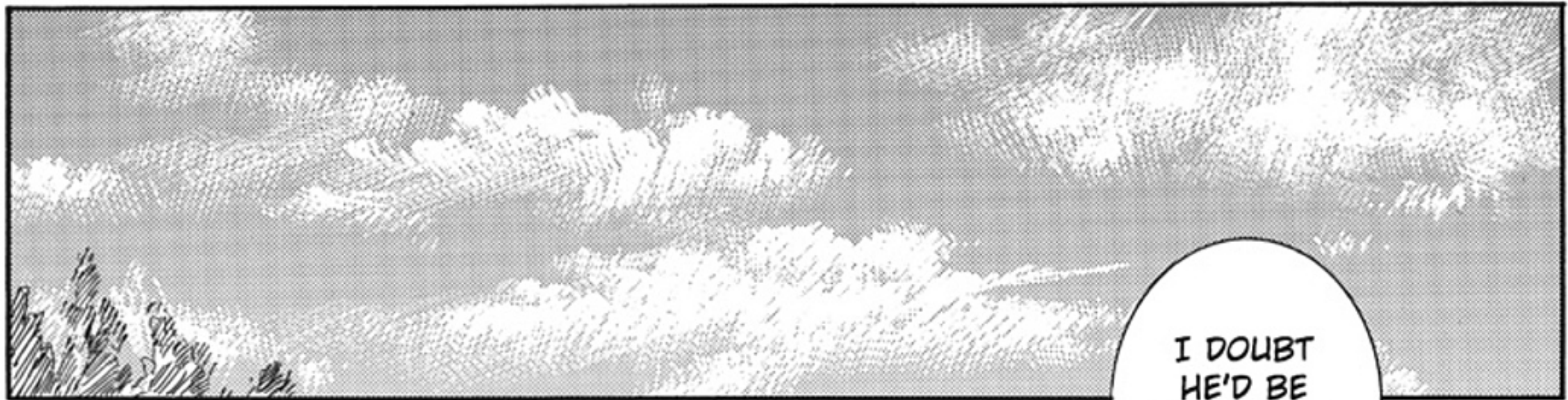
AND AS
THE BIRD
SOARS
THROUGH
THE
SKIES...



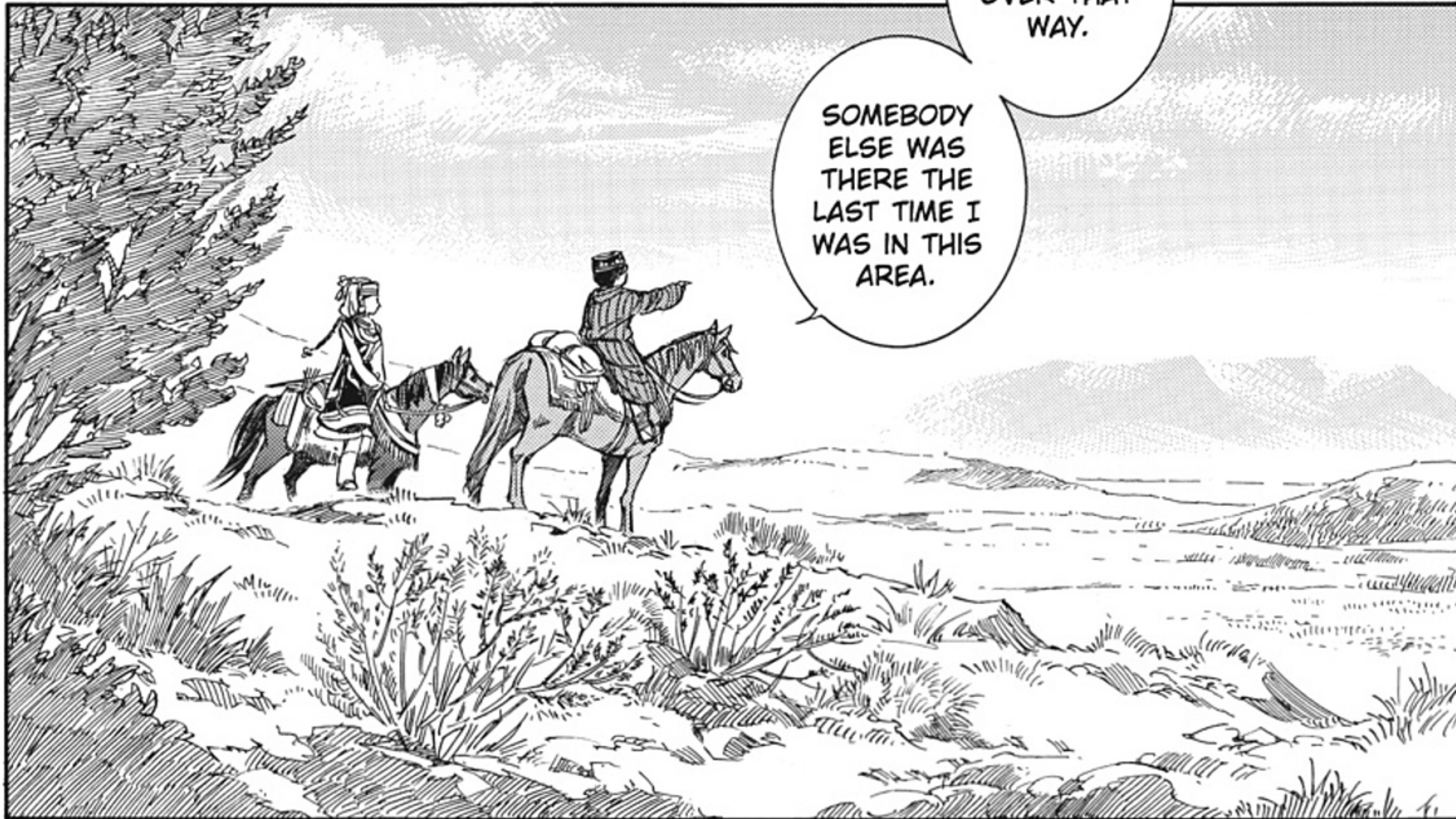
I'LL FIT
YOU WITH
A SILVER
BIT.







I DOUBT
HE'D BE
OVER THAT
WAY.



SOMEBODY
ELSE WAS
THERE THE
LAST TIME I
WAS IN THIS
AREA.



POME-
GRAN-
ATES!!

POME-
GRAN-
ATES?



IT'S
POSSIBLE
THAT HE'S
EVEN
FARTHER
OFF THAN
THAT...

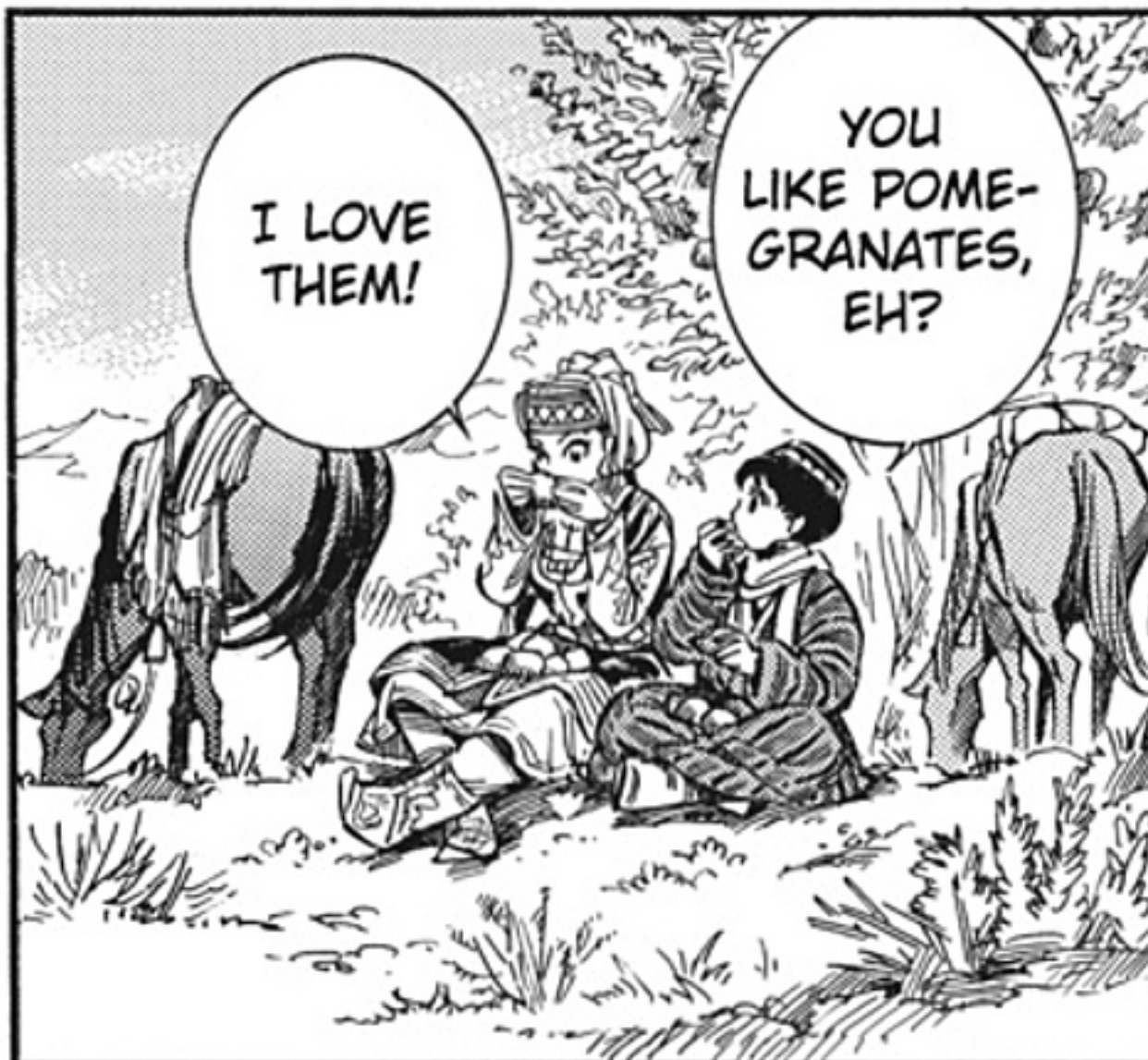


YOU
SEE
THEM!?

AH!



SFX: PIIYORORORO (SCREEEEE)



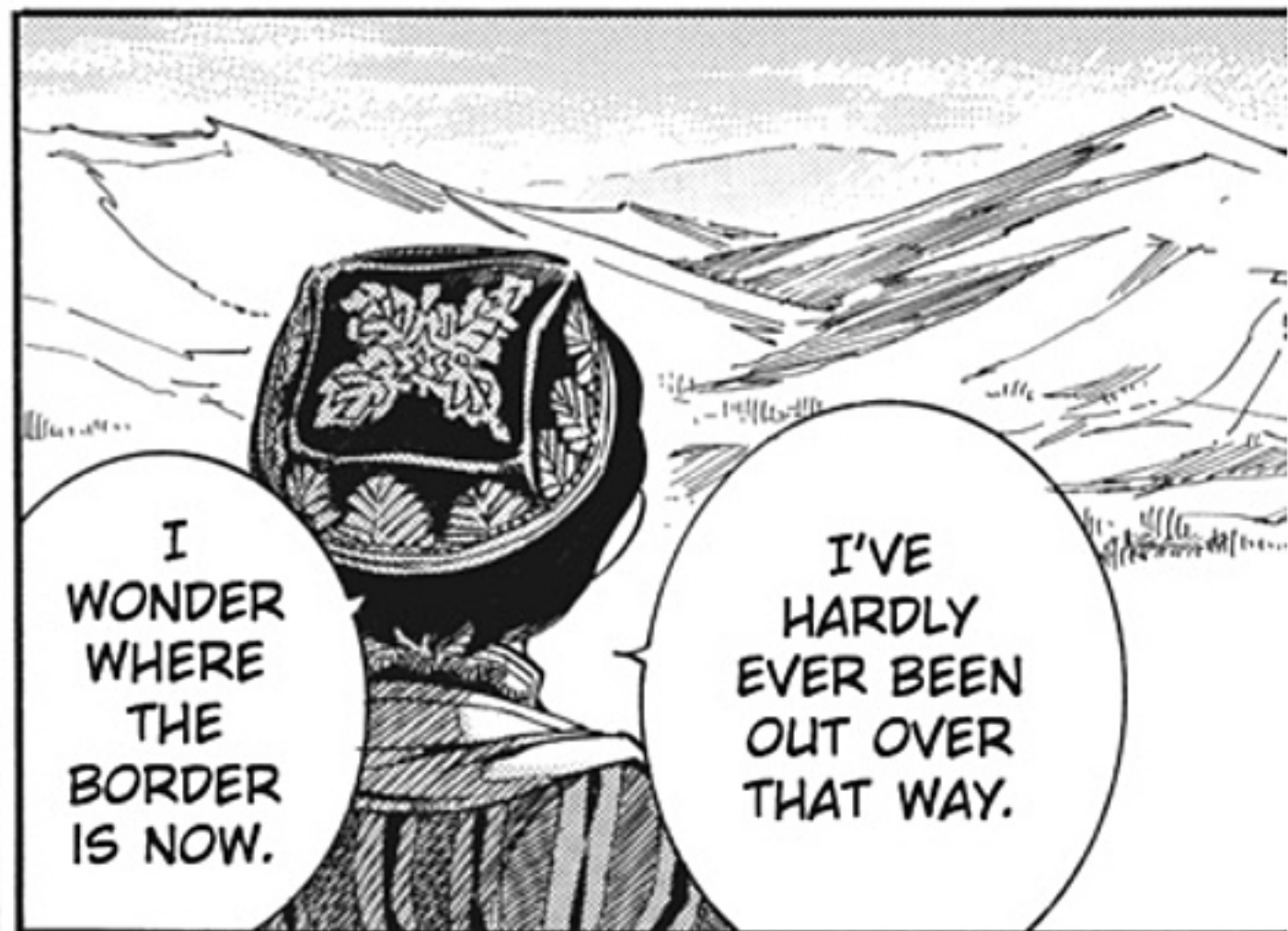


ARE YOU SURE THOSE AREN'T A NUISANCE?

THEY'RE FINE.



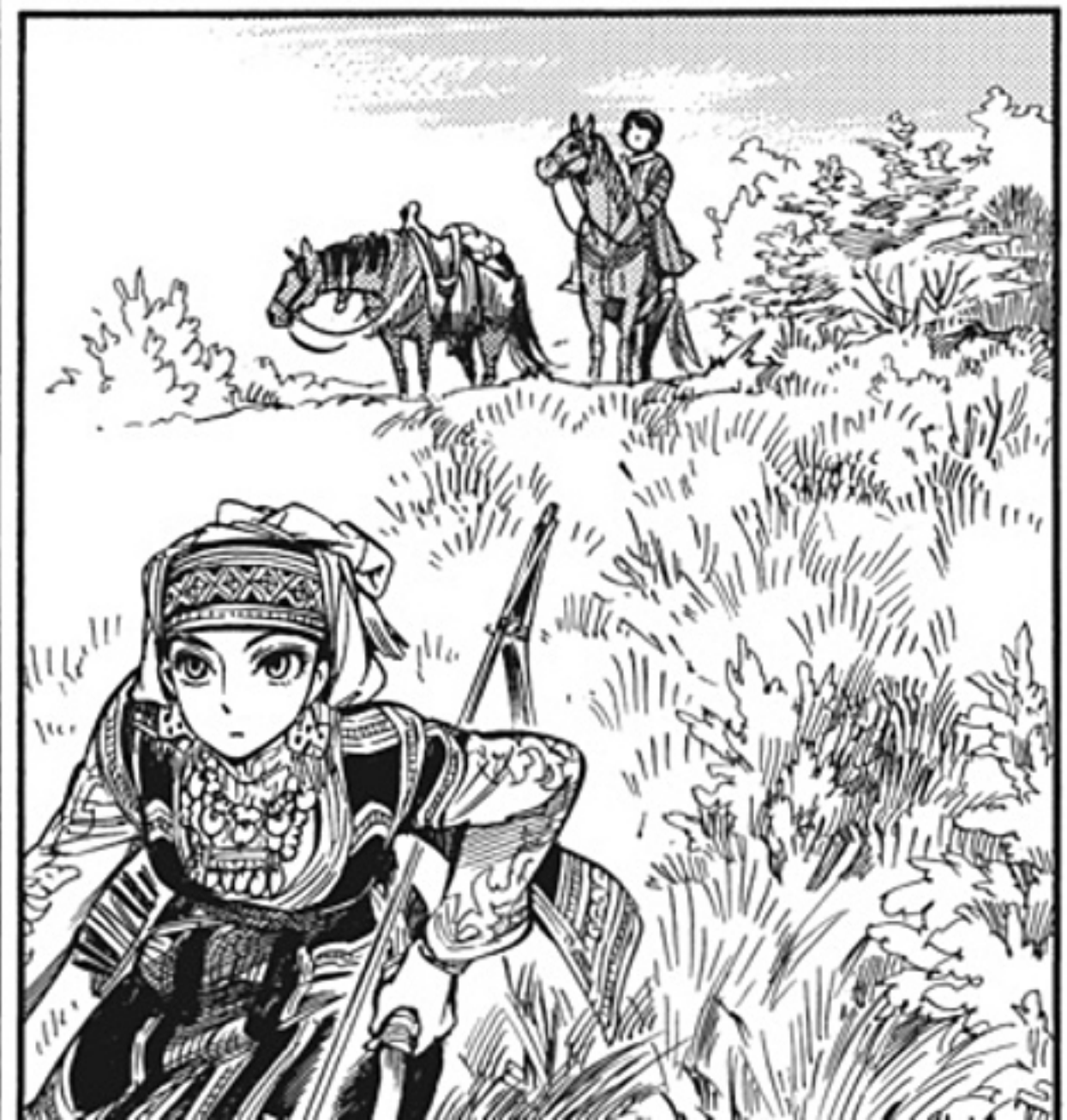
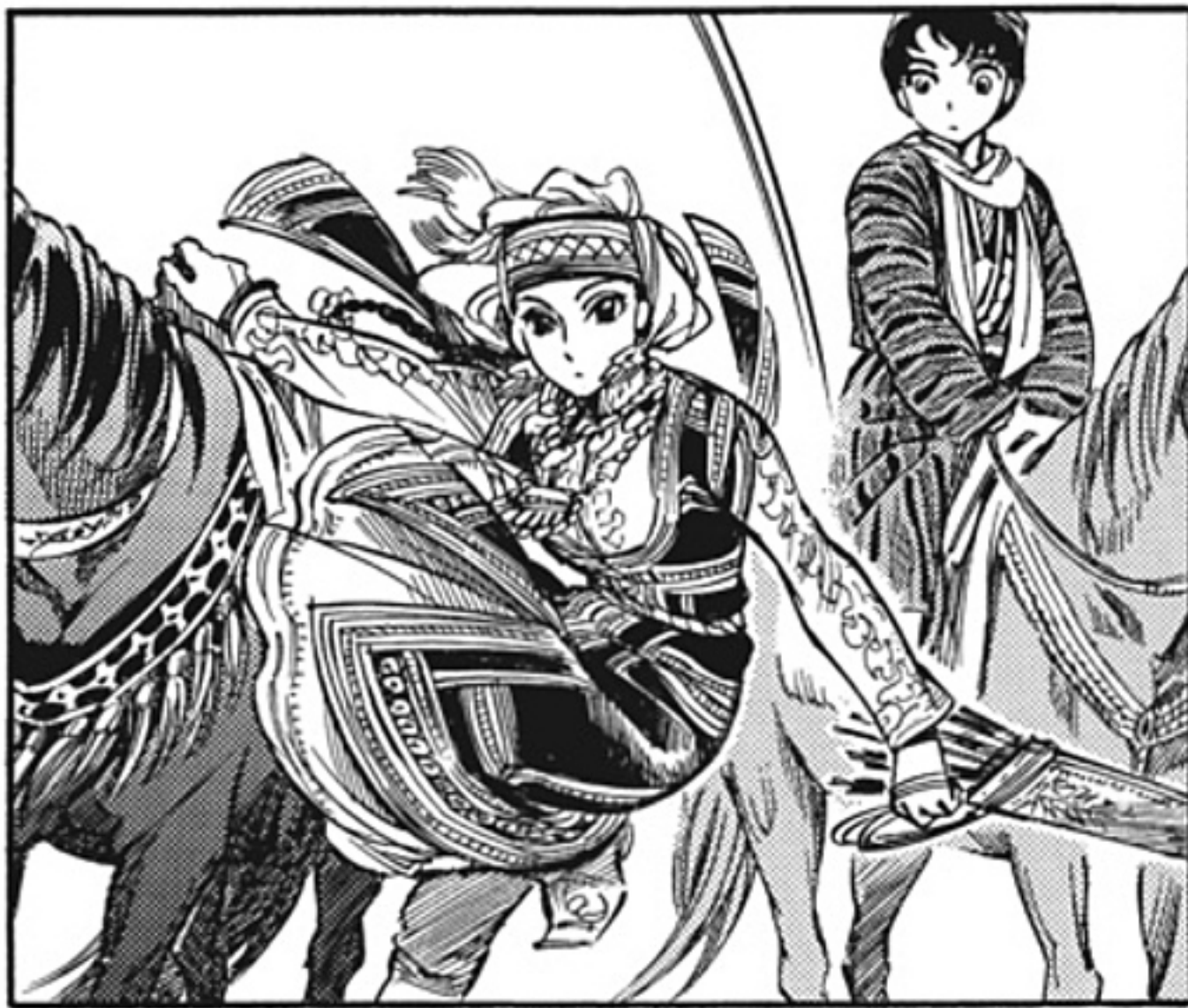
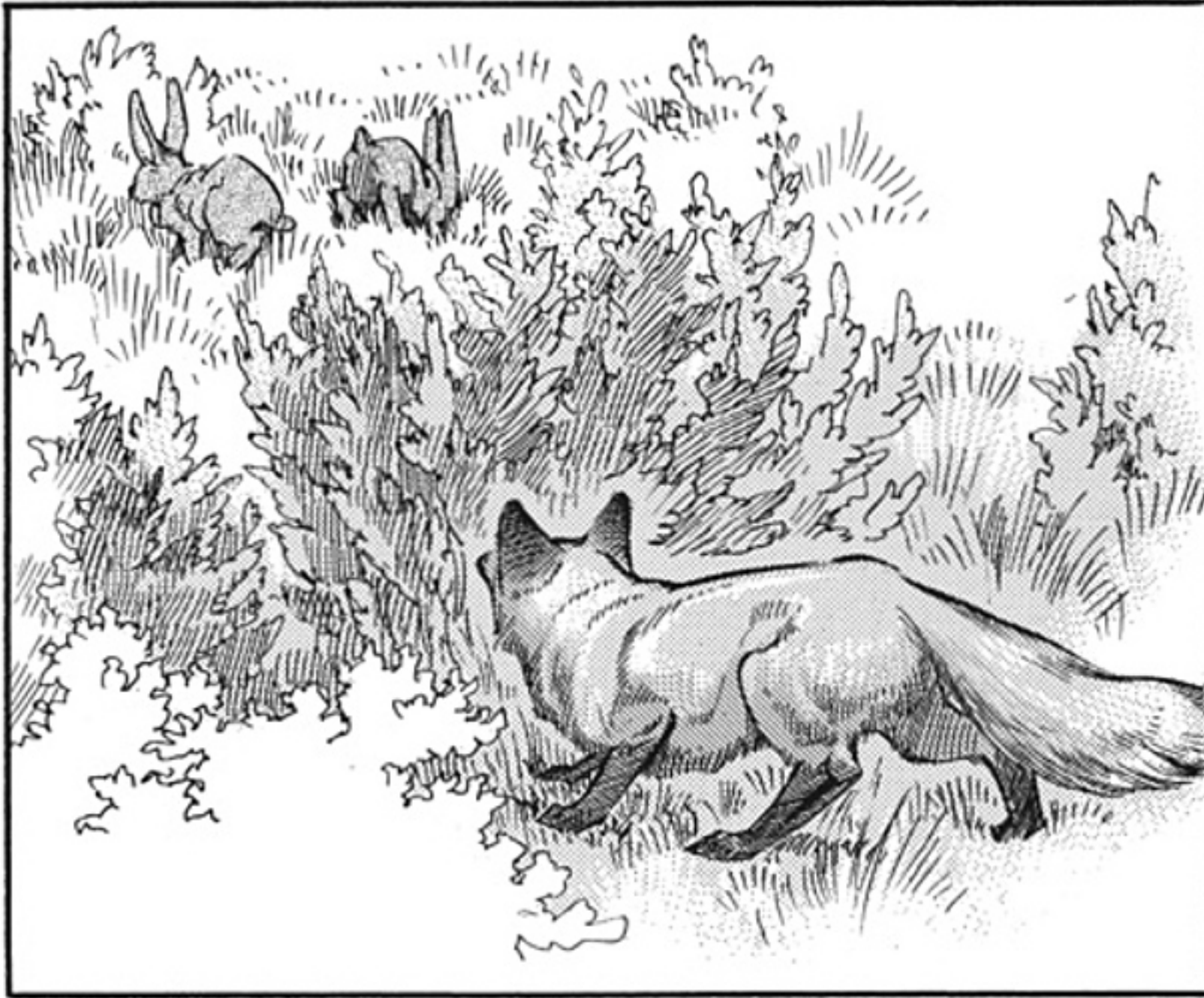
WE'VE COME AN AWFULLY LONG WAY, HAVEN'T WE?



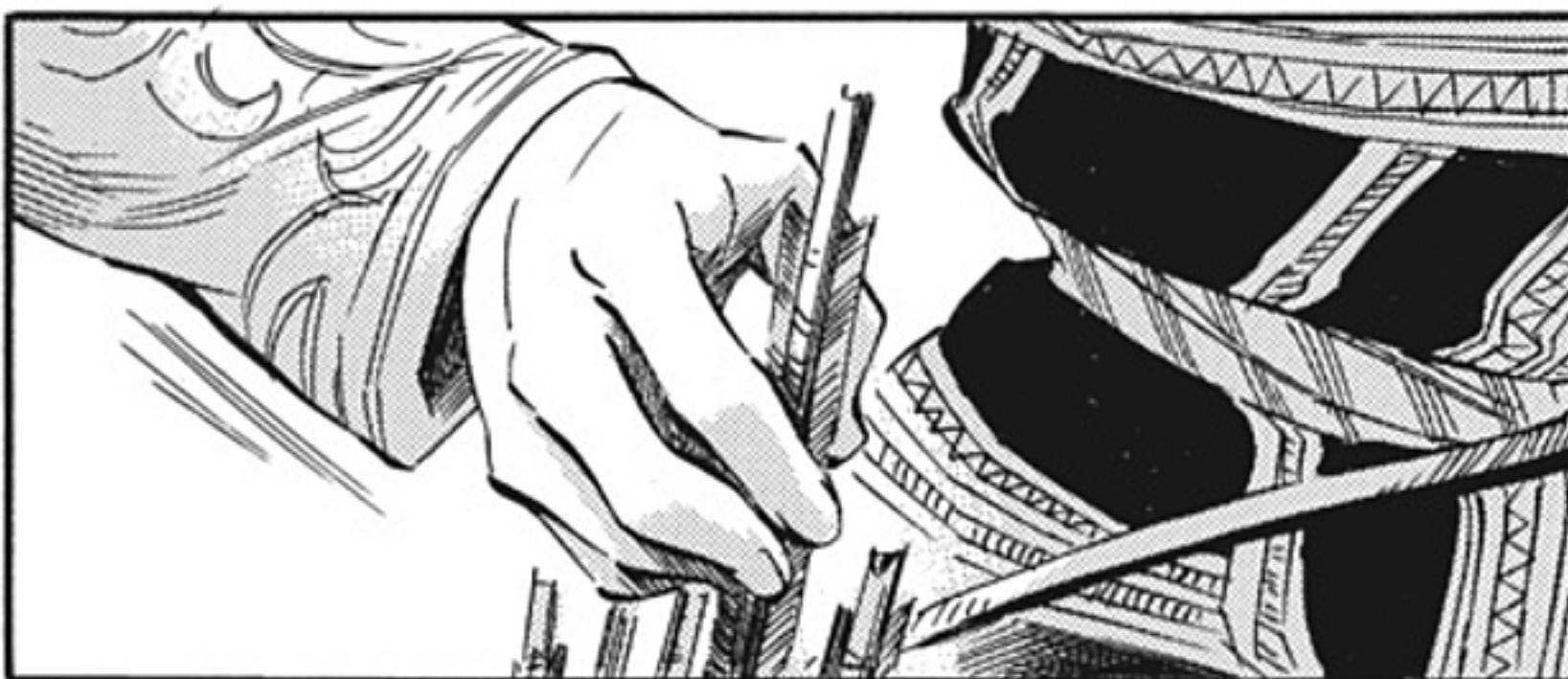
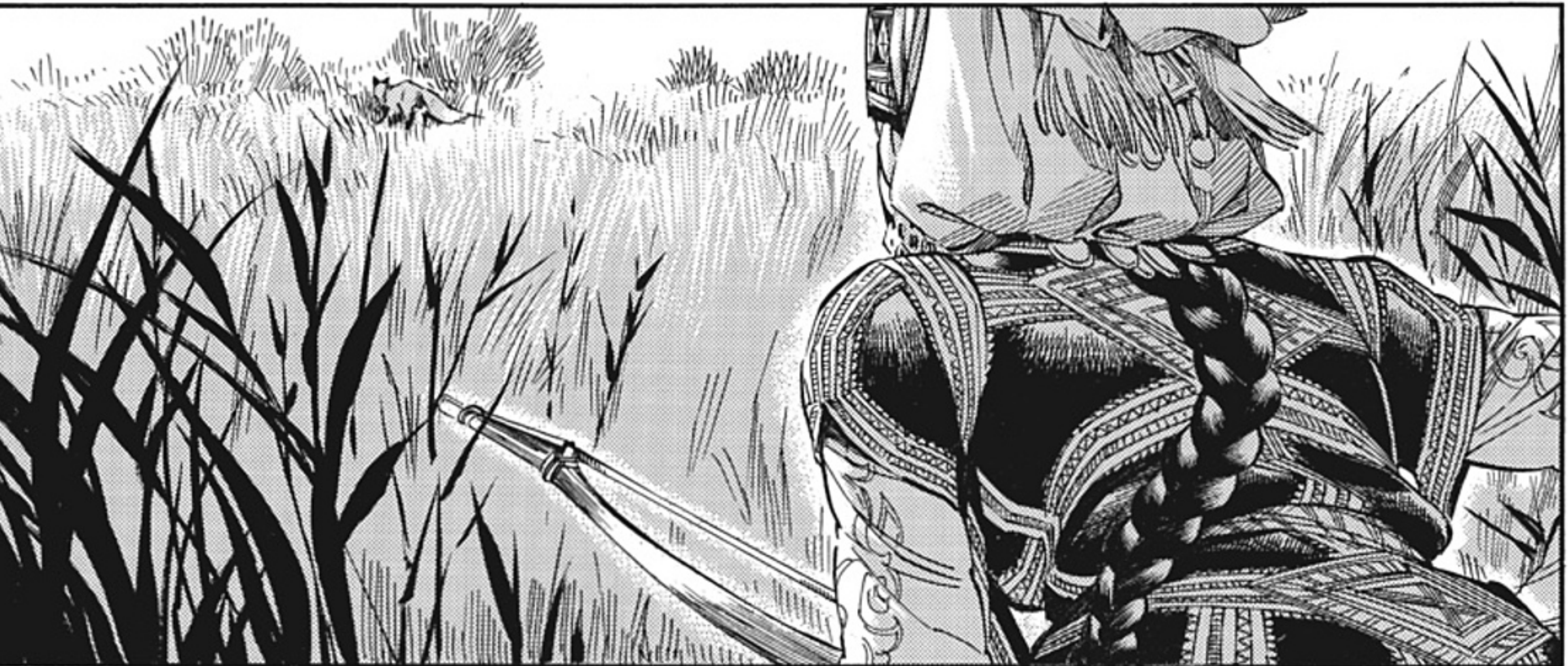
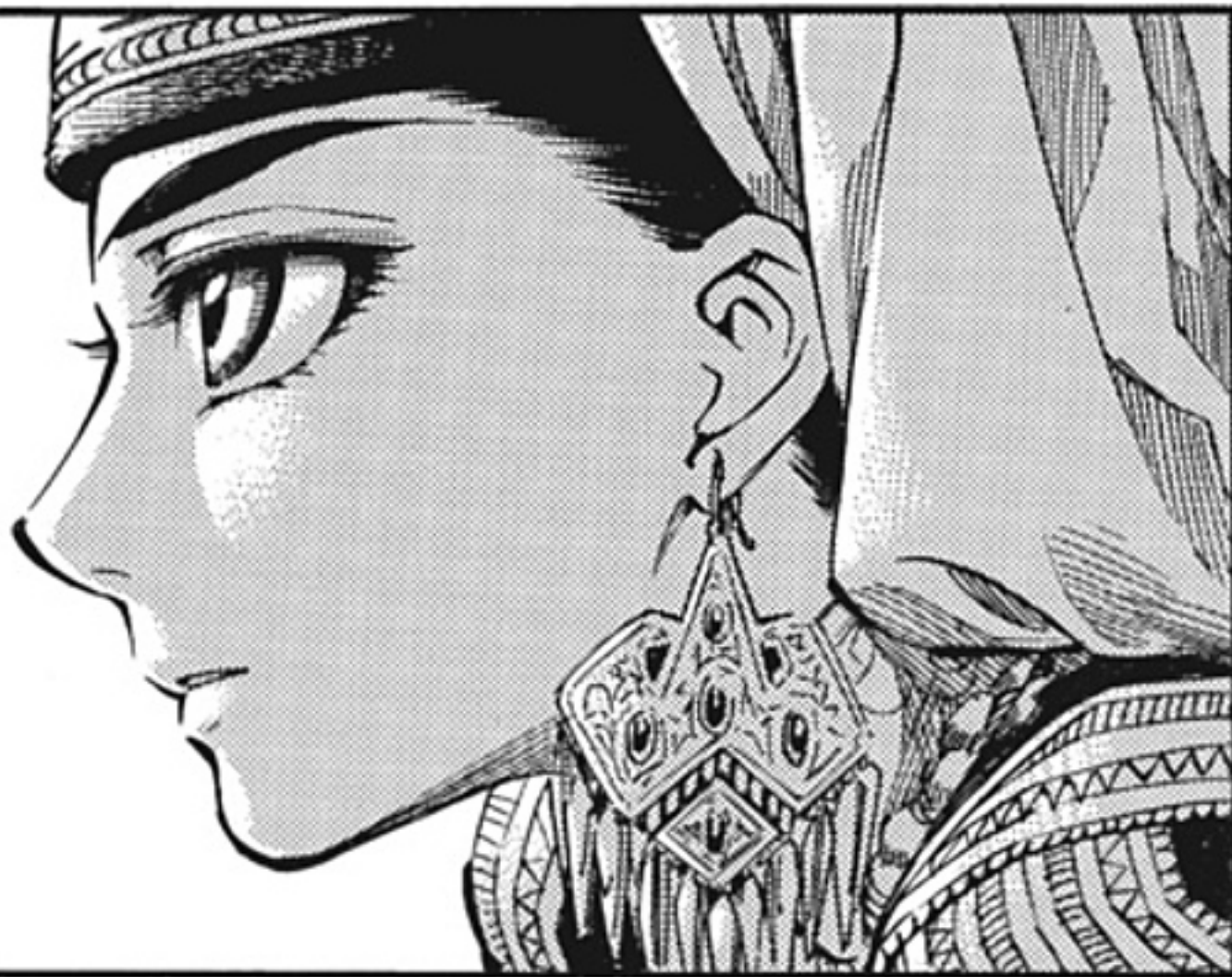
I WONDER WHERE THE BORDER IS NOW.

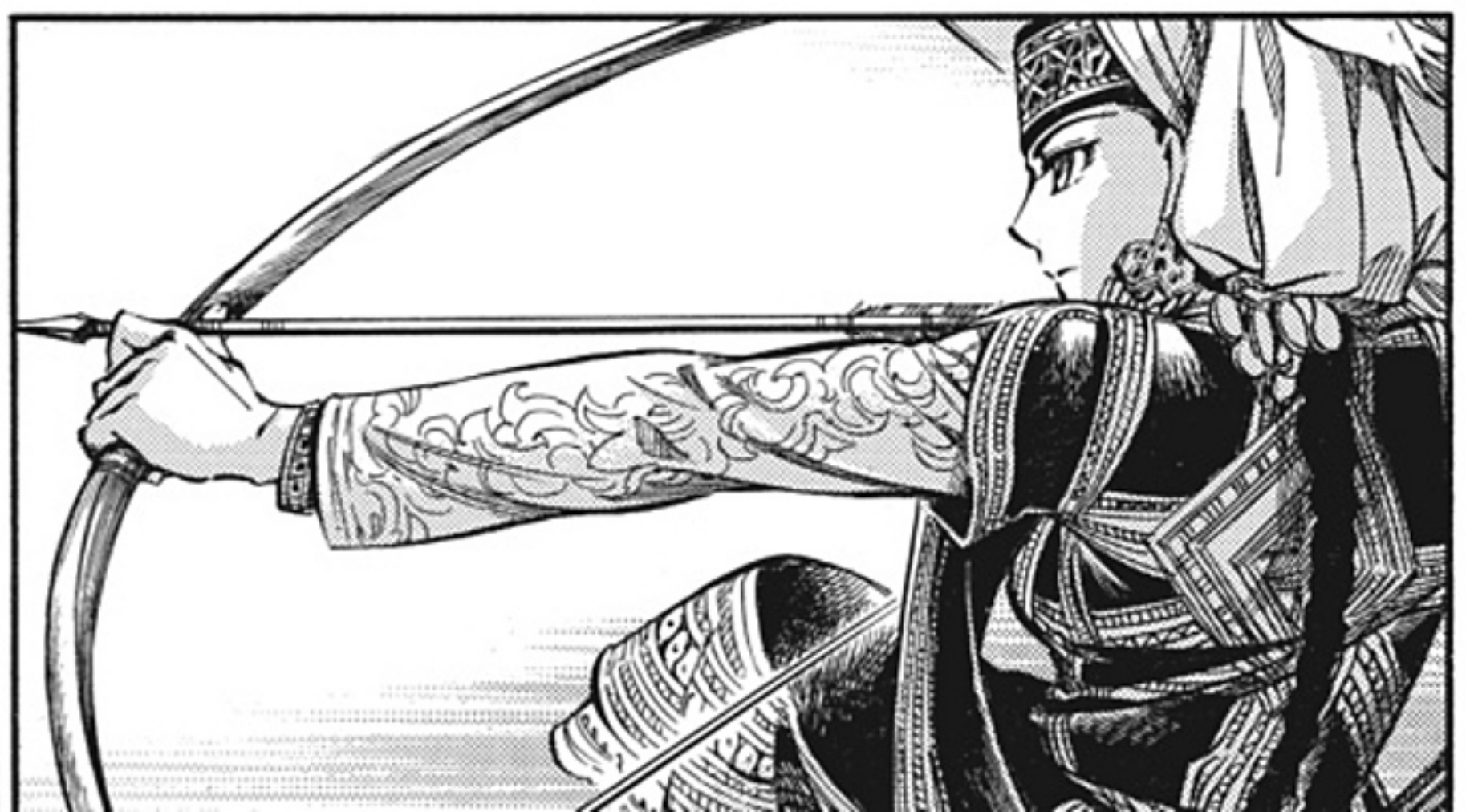
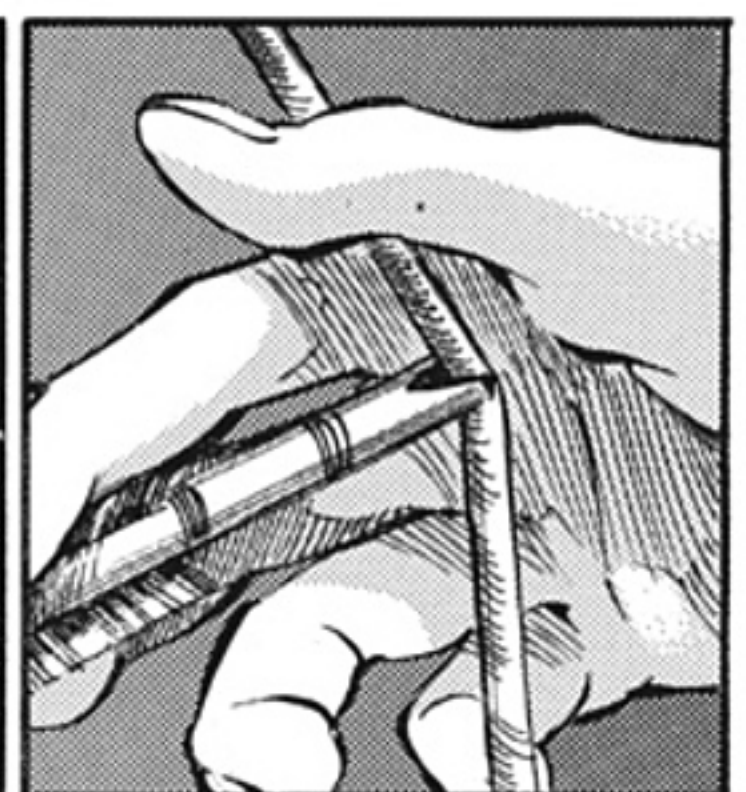
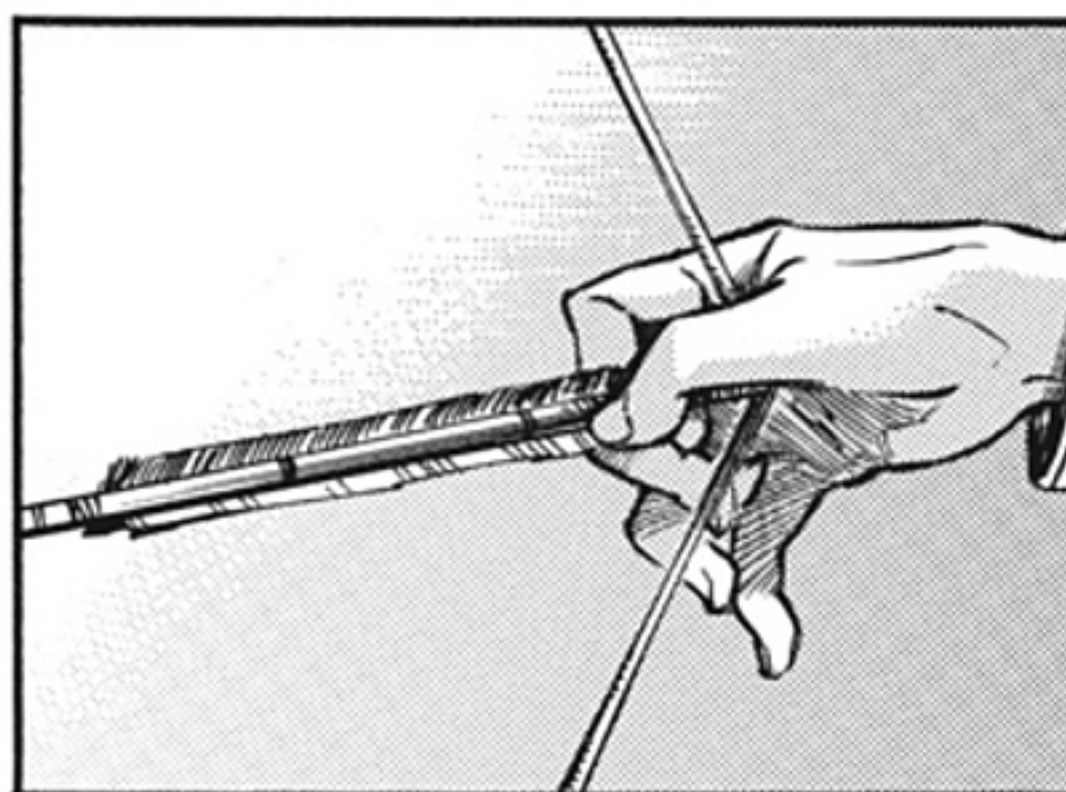
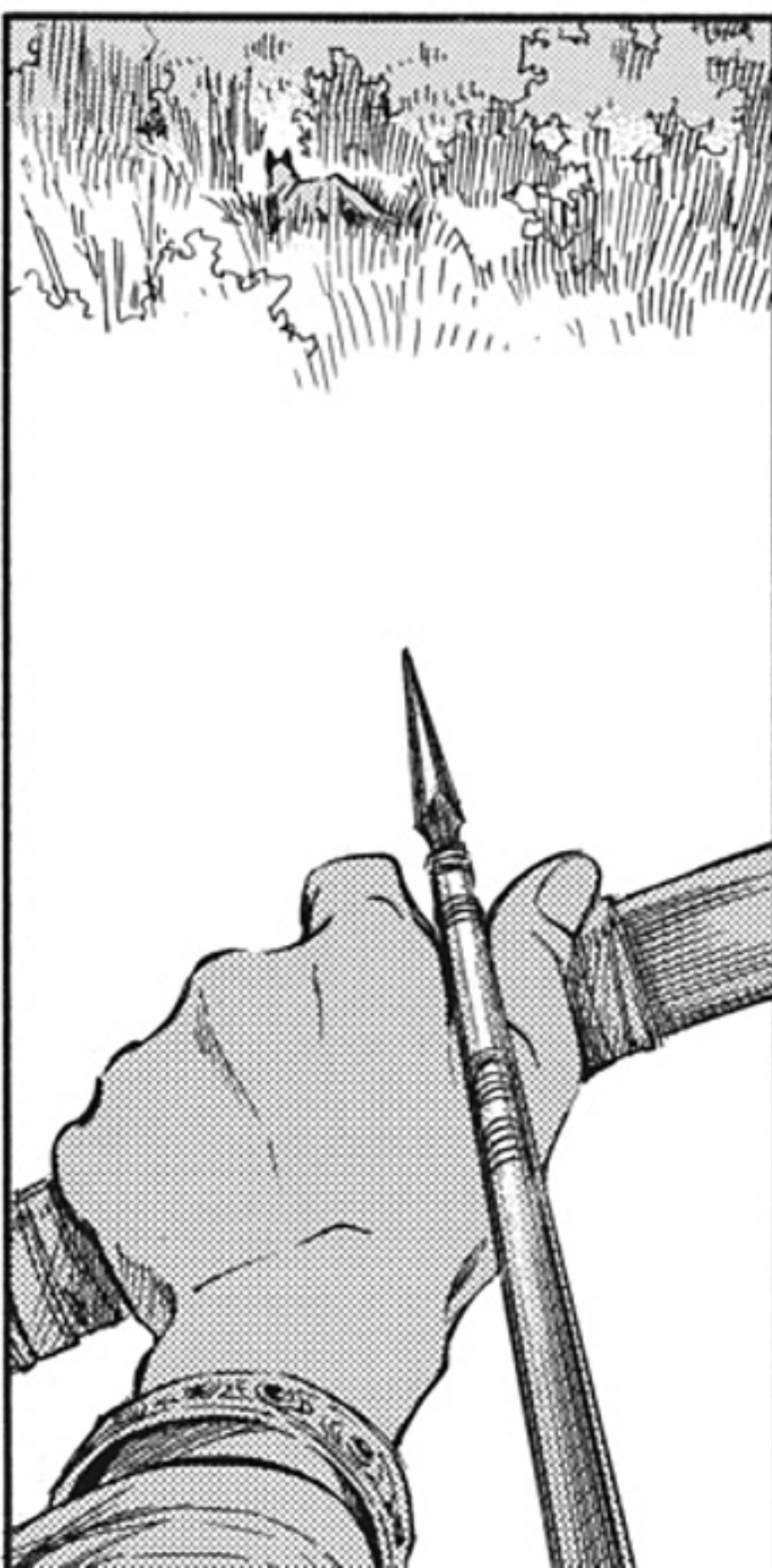
I'VE HARDLY EVER BEEN OUT OVER THAT WAY.

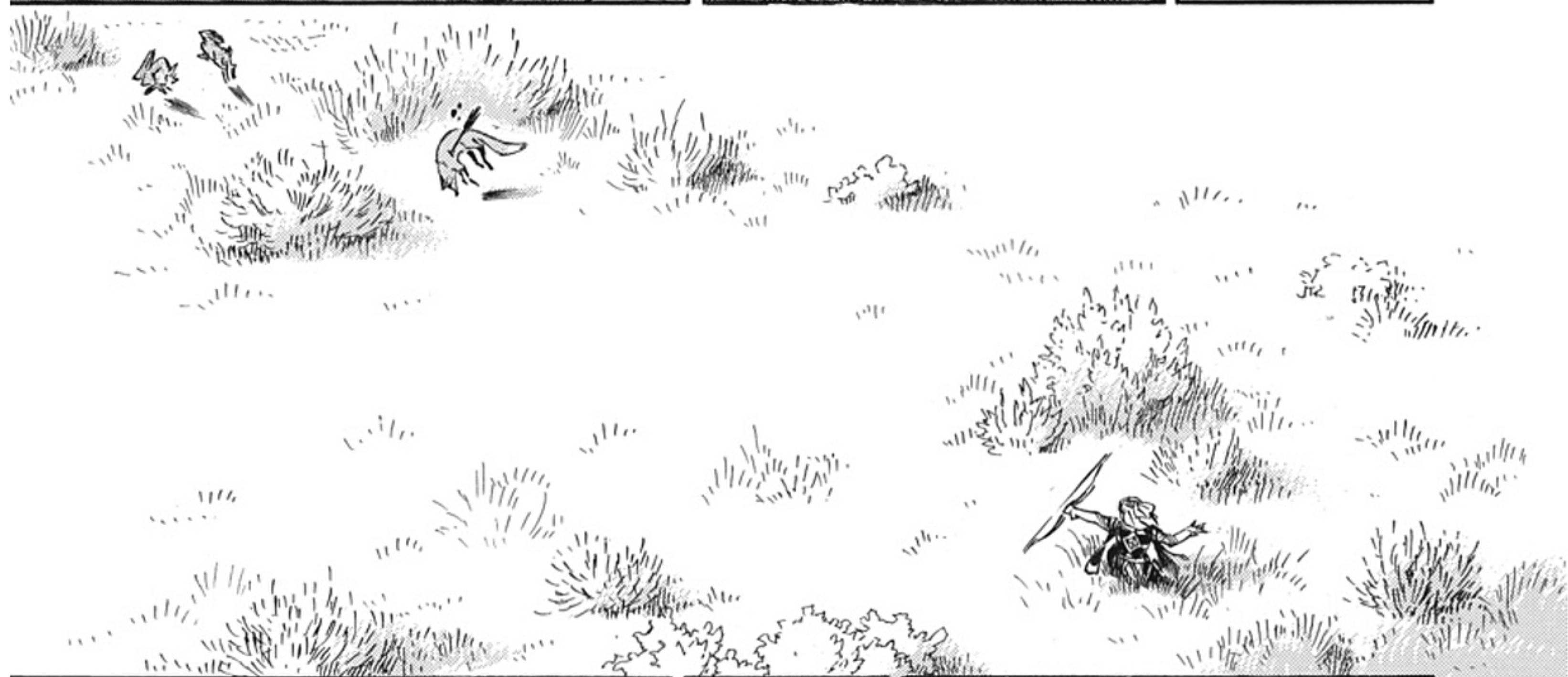
















...NOT
HERE
EITHER,
EH?



...IT'LL
BE DARK
BEFORE
WE MAKE
IT HOME.

IF WE
DON'T
GO BACK
SOON...



WE CAN
ALWAYS
COME OUT
SEARCH-
ING
AGAIN.

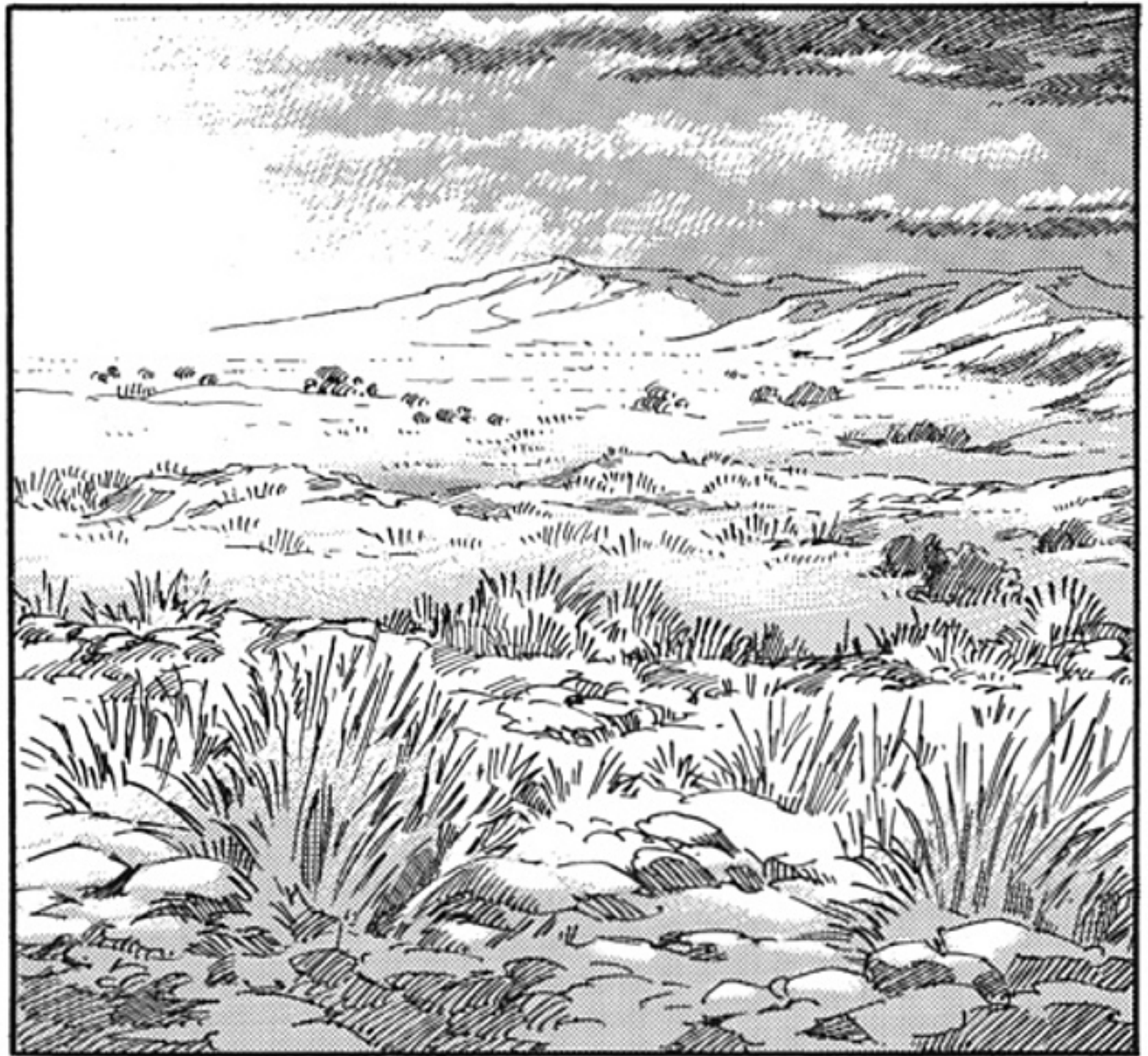
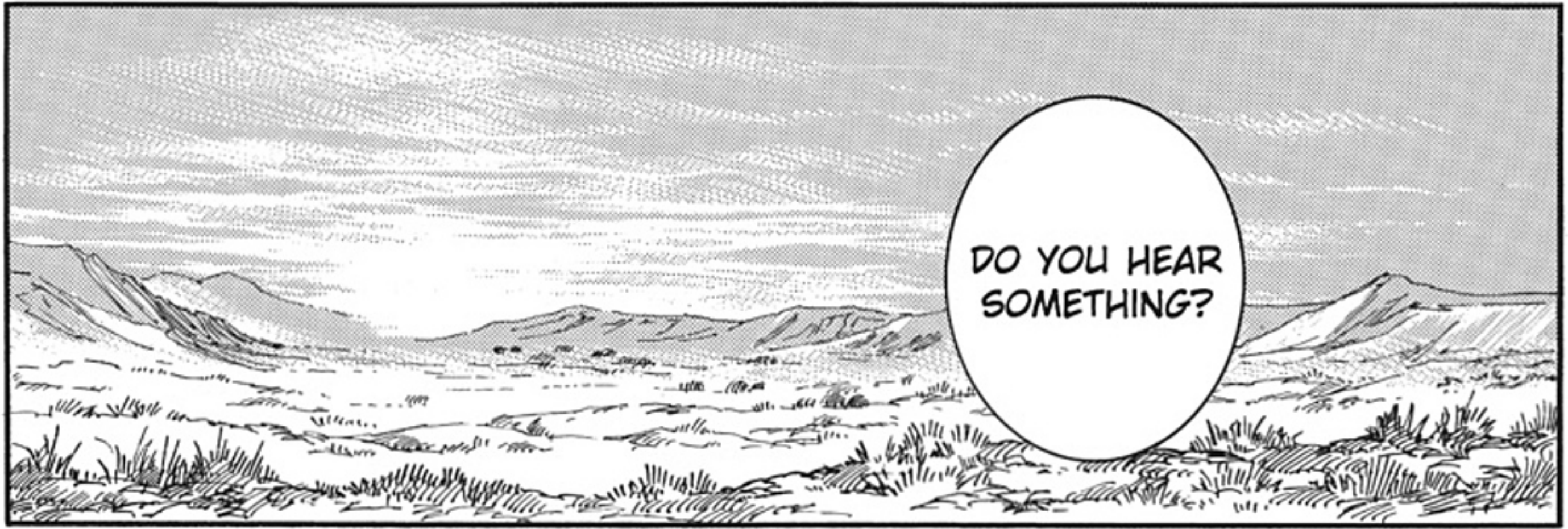
YEAH.

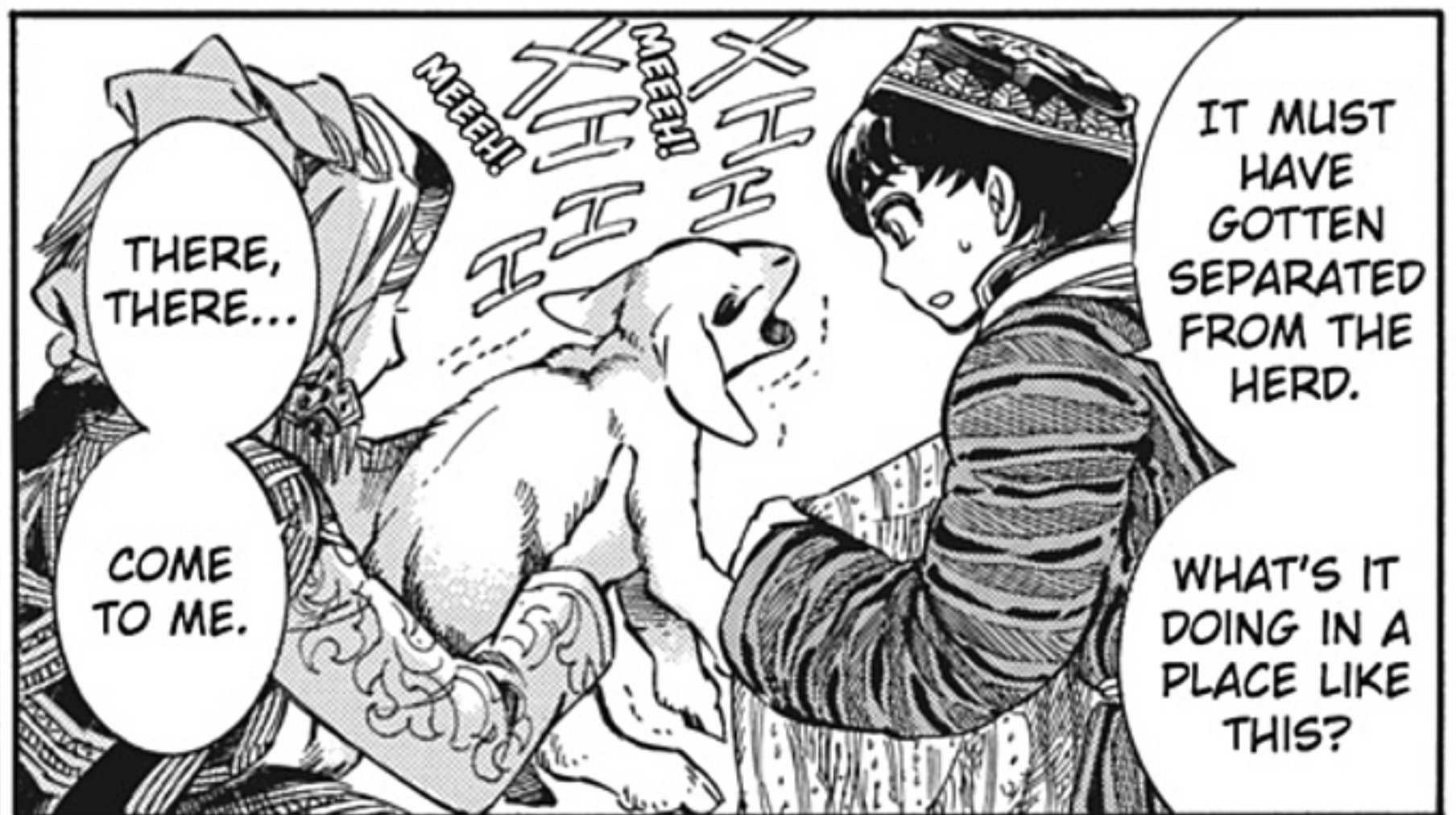
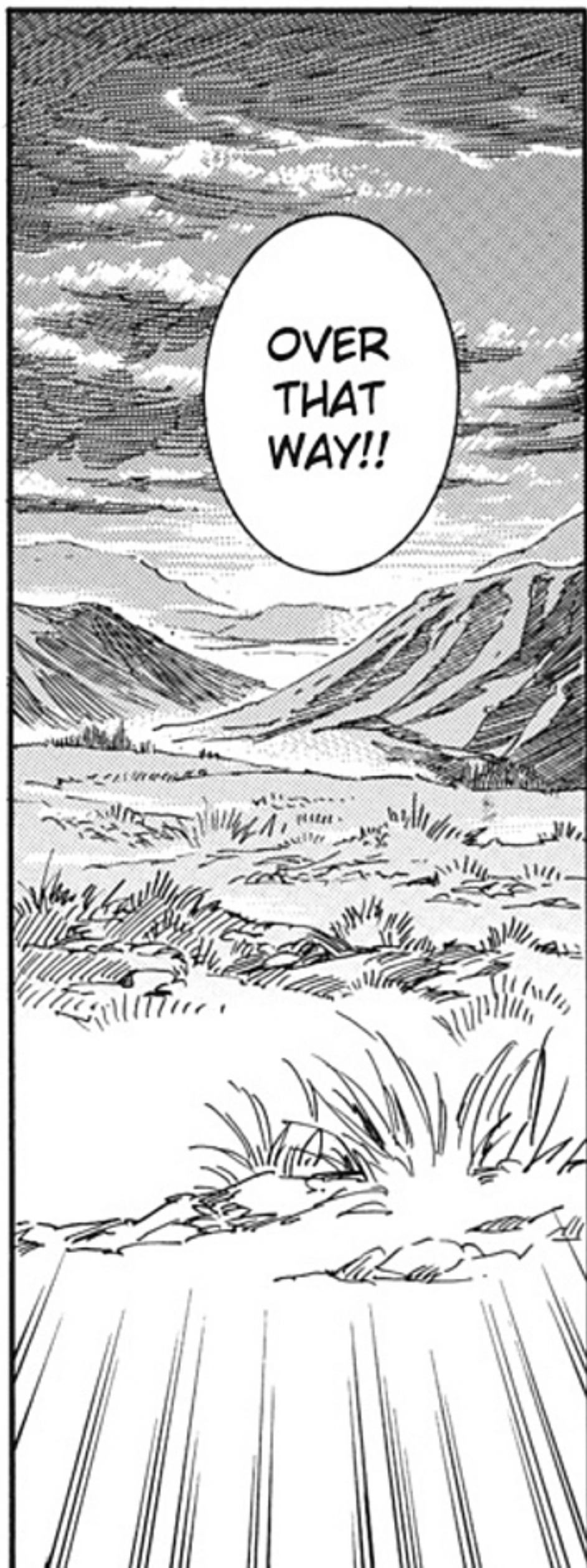
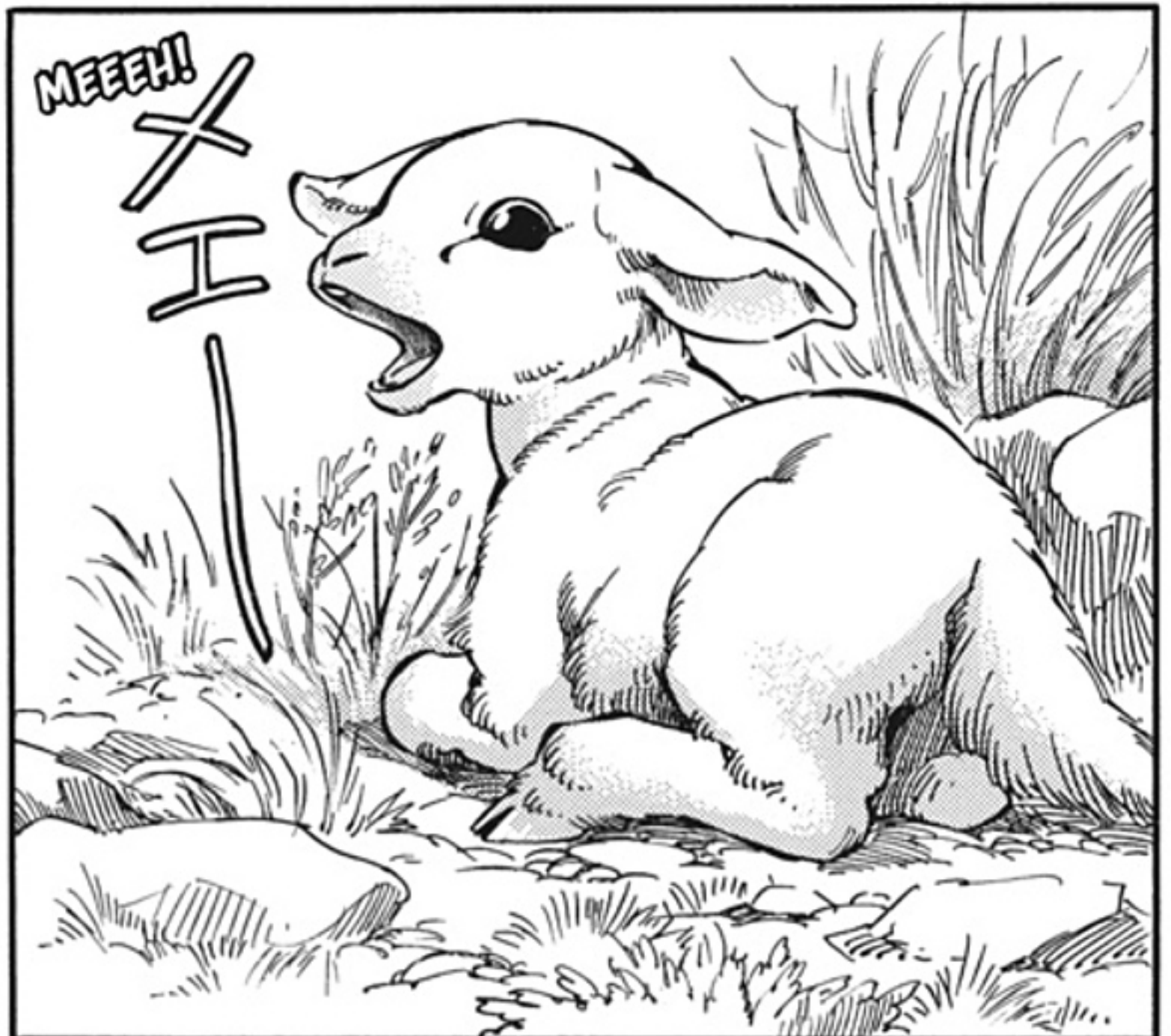


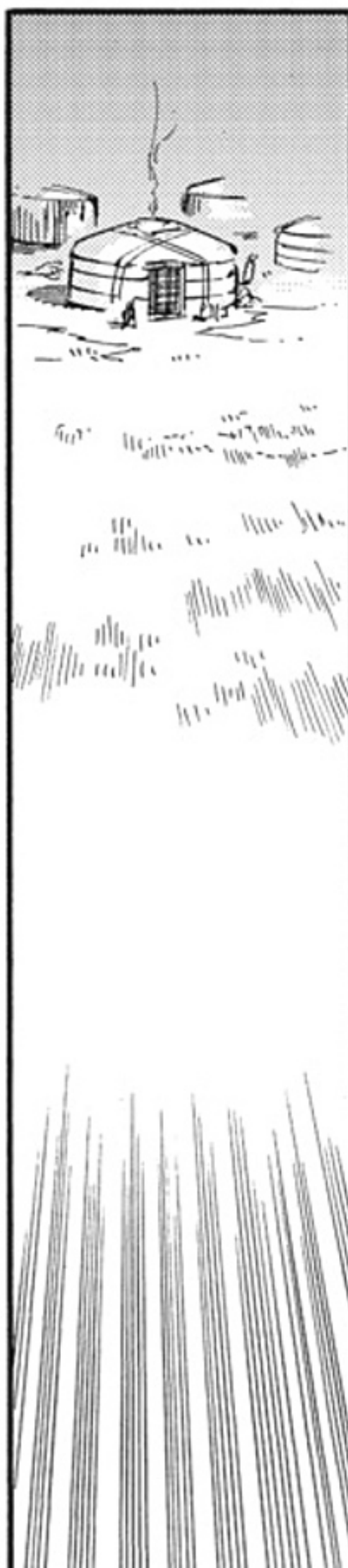
...ALL
RIGHT.



WHY
DON'T
WE HEAD
HOME?













THEY FOLLOW ON OUR HEELS AND ACCUSE US OF ALL KINDS OF THINGS!

REALLY!

THOSE NORTHERNERS ARE AS BAD AS THEY COME!

SAYING THAT WE LET OUR SHEEP RUN WILD AND EAT THE CROPS ON FARMS AND SUCH.

DESPI-CABLE!



AH, I'M SORRY TO BORE YOU WITH MY TROUBLES.



.....



THIS WAS ORIGINALLY OUR LAND ANYWAY!

WE'RE NOT MOVING NOW, NO MATTER WHAT!



AND LOOK AT HOW FINE THE WORK IS!

AND YOU EVEN BROUGHT THE SHEATH I ASKED FOR!



YES, EVERY-BODY IS WELL!

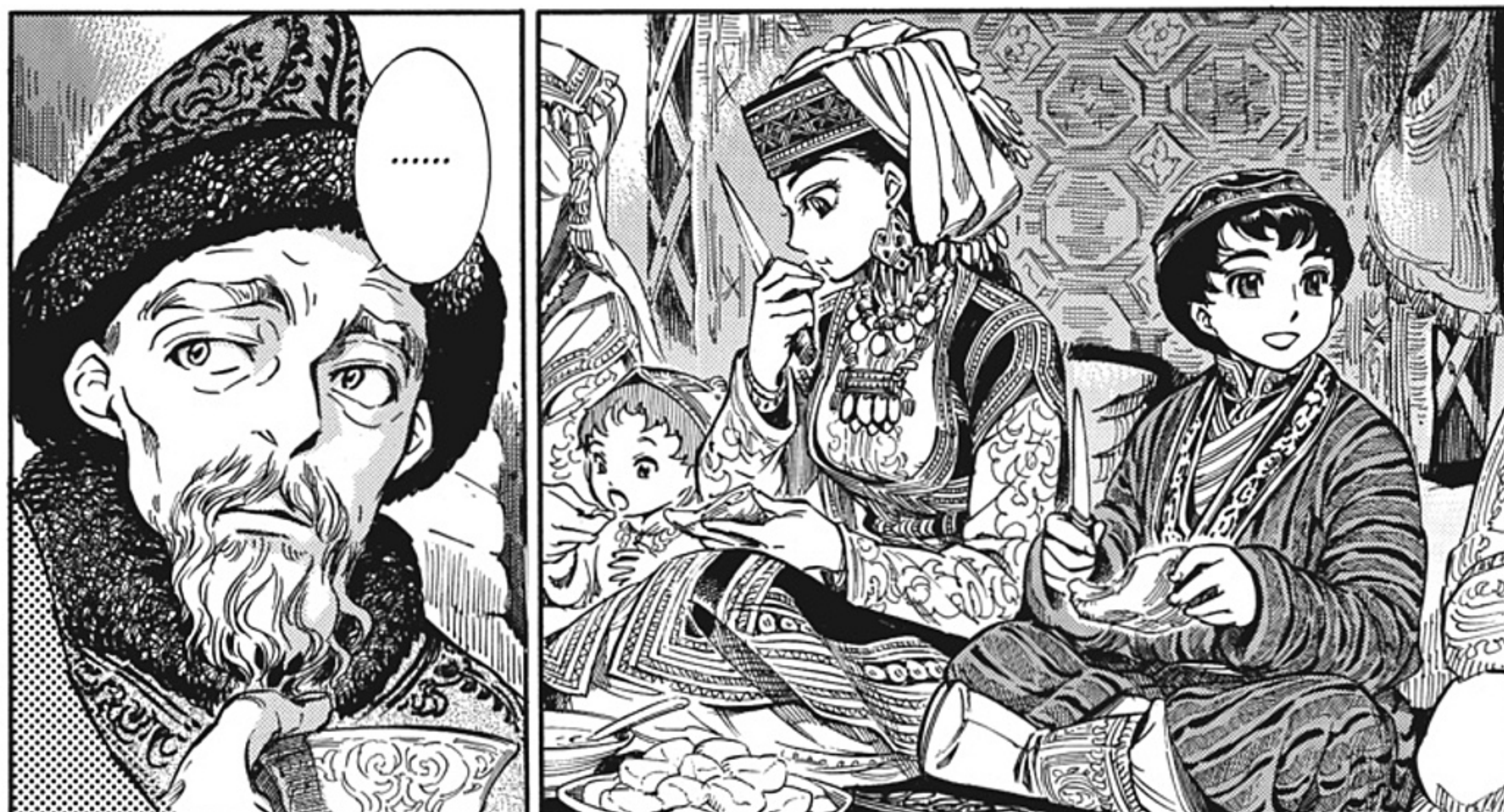
IS EVERYONE WELL? NOBODY HAS PASSED AWAY, HAVE THEY?

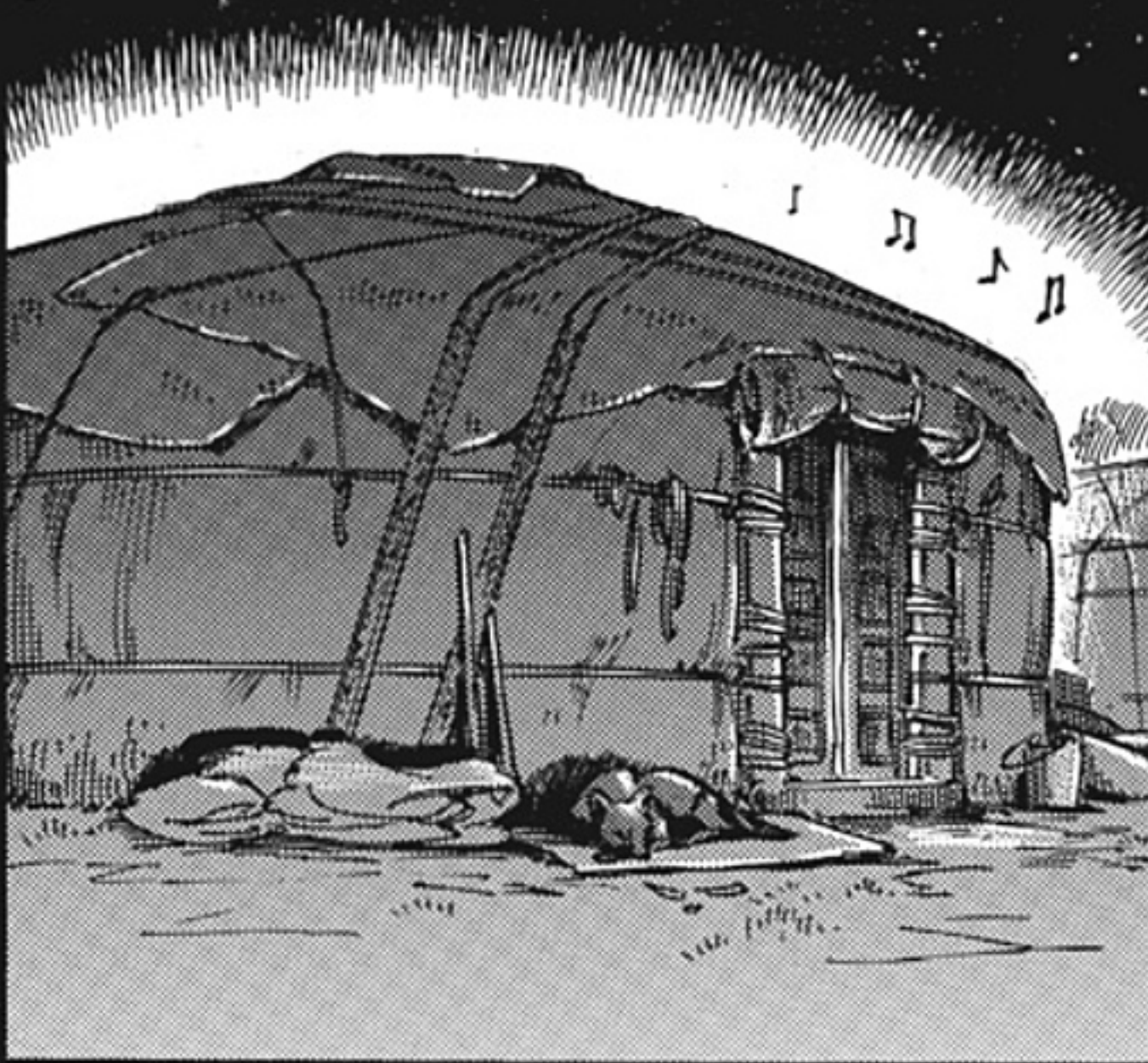


THIS IS A CELEBRA-TION!

HERE WE'VE FINALLY MET AFTER SO LONG!

RIGHT!



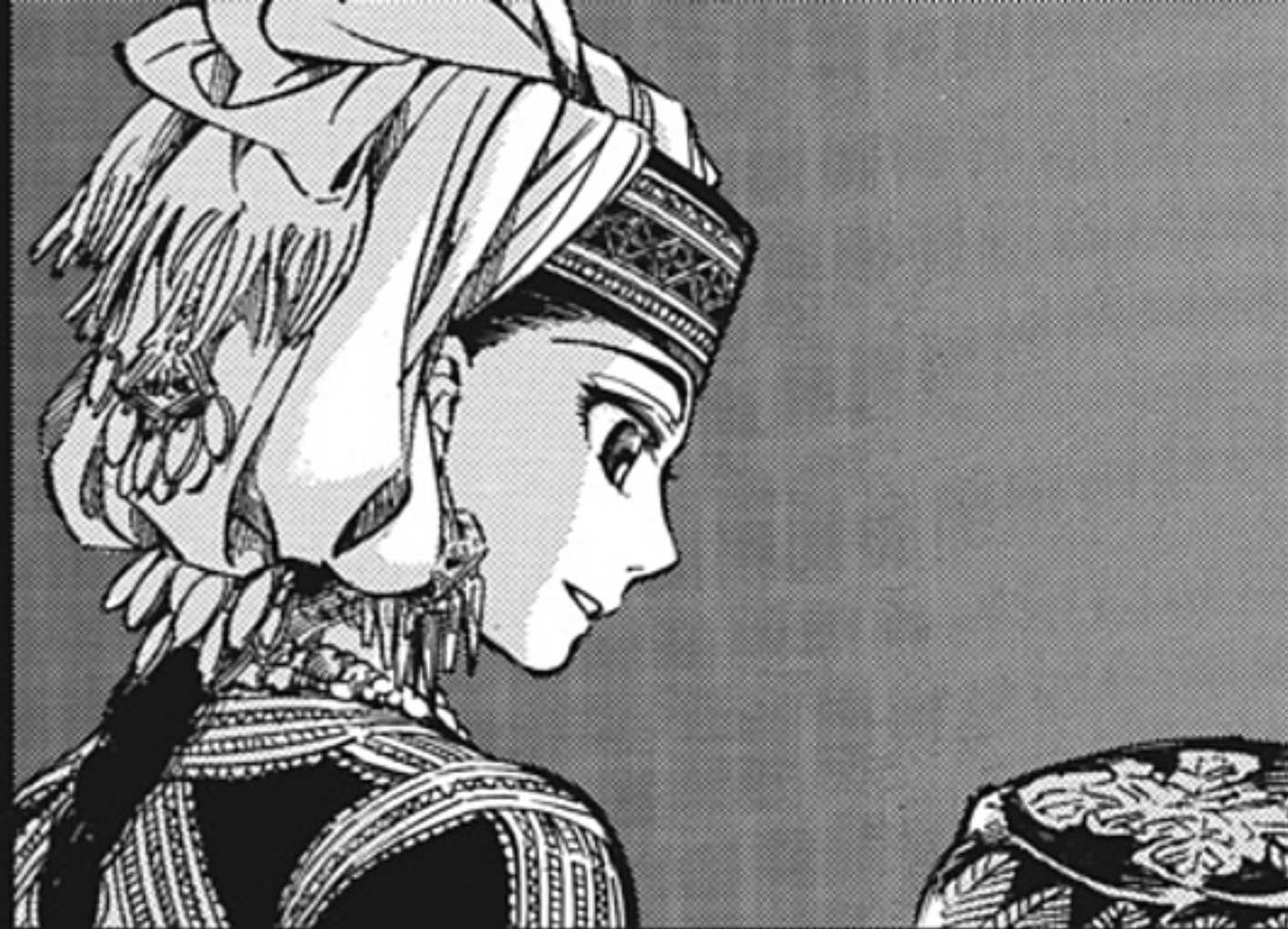




I MUST SAY, THAT'S ONE OLD BRIDE HE'S GOT THERE.

YES...

SHE IS A BIT OLD, ISN'T SHE?



WELL, CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

BRIDES SHOULD BE YOUNG.



AT THAT AGE, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE BIRTH TO AS MANY CHILDREN.

I WONDER IF IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

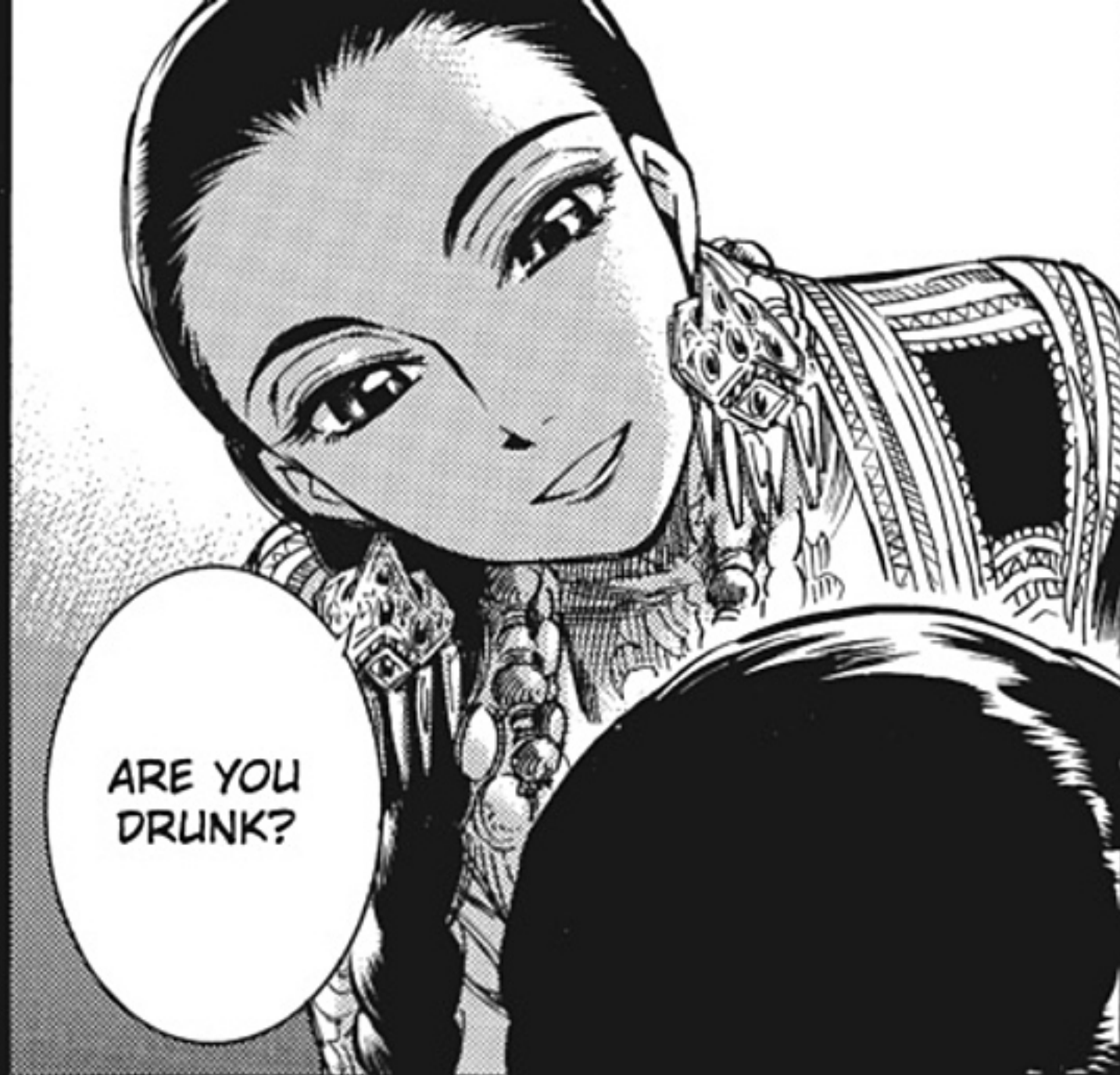


I NEVER THOUGHT THAT UNCLE UMAK WOULD MAKE ME DRINK LIKE THAT.



HAAAH...

I'M SO FULL.



ARE YOU
DRUNK?



ALL
RIGHT...
MAYBE
I AM
DRUNK.



NO, I'M
NOT.

REALLY?



.....



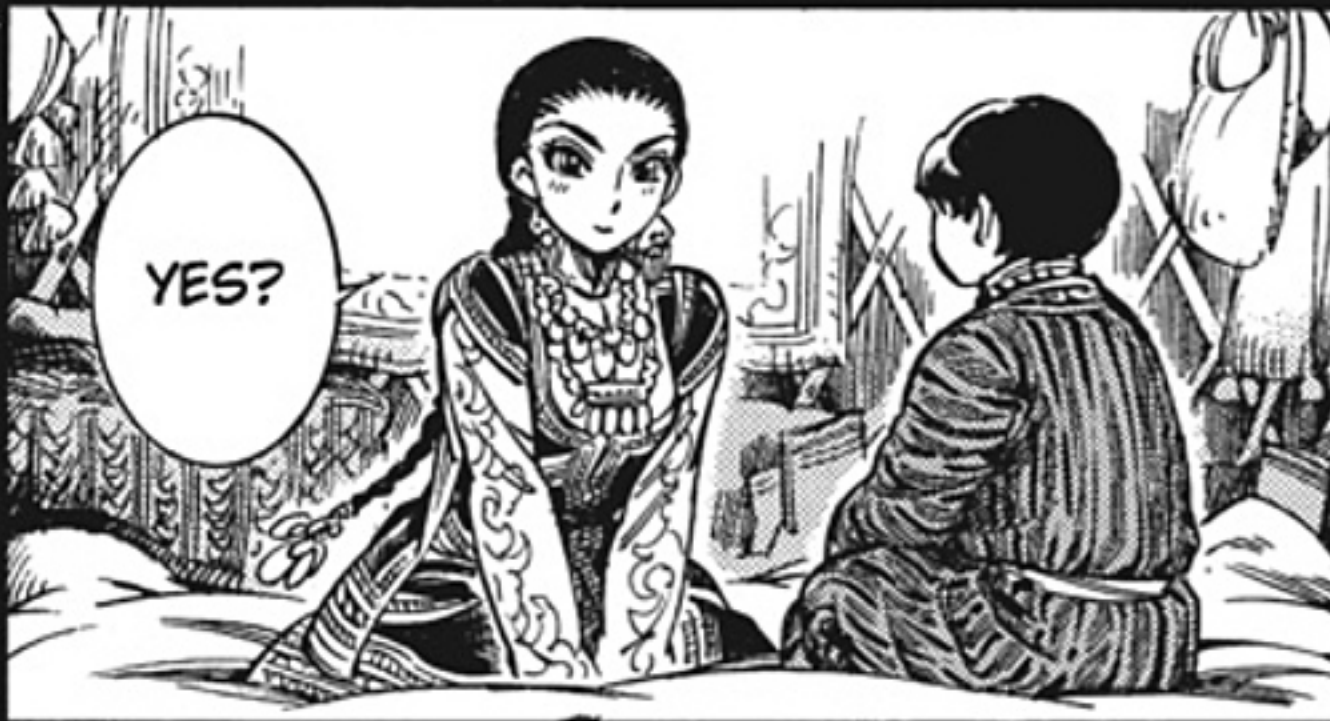
ON OUR
WAY HOME,
LET'S PICK
SOME MORE
POMEGRAN-
ATES.

EVERYONE
IS SO KIND.

YEAH...

YEAH...

YOU REALLY DO
LOVE THOSE,
DON'T YOU?







SAY, AMIR.
YOU TAKE
THAT QUILT,
AND...



LET'S
GET TO
SLEEP.



IT GETS
VERY COLD
IN A YURT
AT NIGHT.

IT'S
WARMEST
TO SLEEP IN
THE NUDE.



WAIT!
WAIT
JUST A
SECOND!

WHY
ARE YOU
TAKING
OFF YOUR
CLOTHES!?



NOT
ME! I'M
FINE!

IF YOU
STAY
CLOTHED,
YOU'LL
CATCH A
COLD!!



COME ON,
STRIP
DOWN!

EH?



NO...
I MEAN,
WE'RE IN
MY UNCLE'S
HOUSE...

ANYBODY
WHO
SLEEPS IN A
YURT DOES
THIS.

...MUST
FEEL JUST
LIKE THIS.



YOU,
BOY!





...I CAN'T
RELAX
ENOUGH
TO FALL
ASLEEP.

JUST
SLEEP.



IT'S
WARM...

...BUT...



IT'S
WARM,
ISN'T
IT?

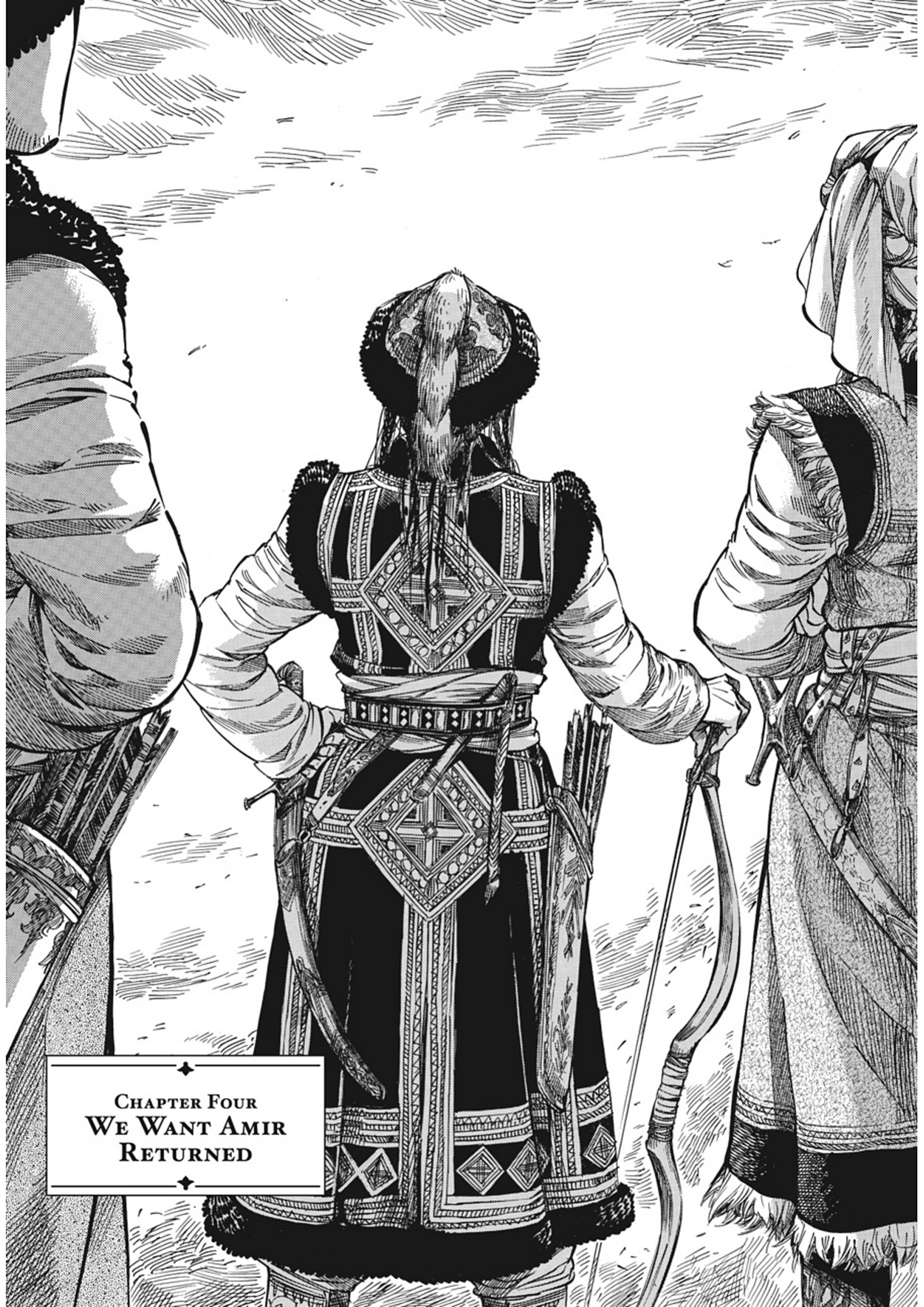


I
THINK...

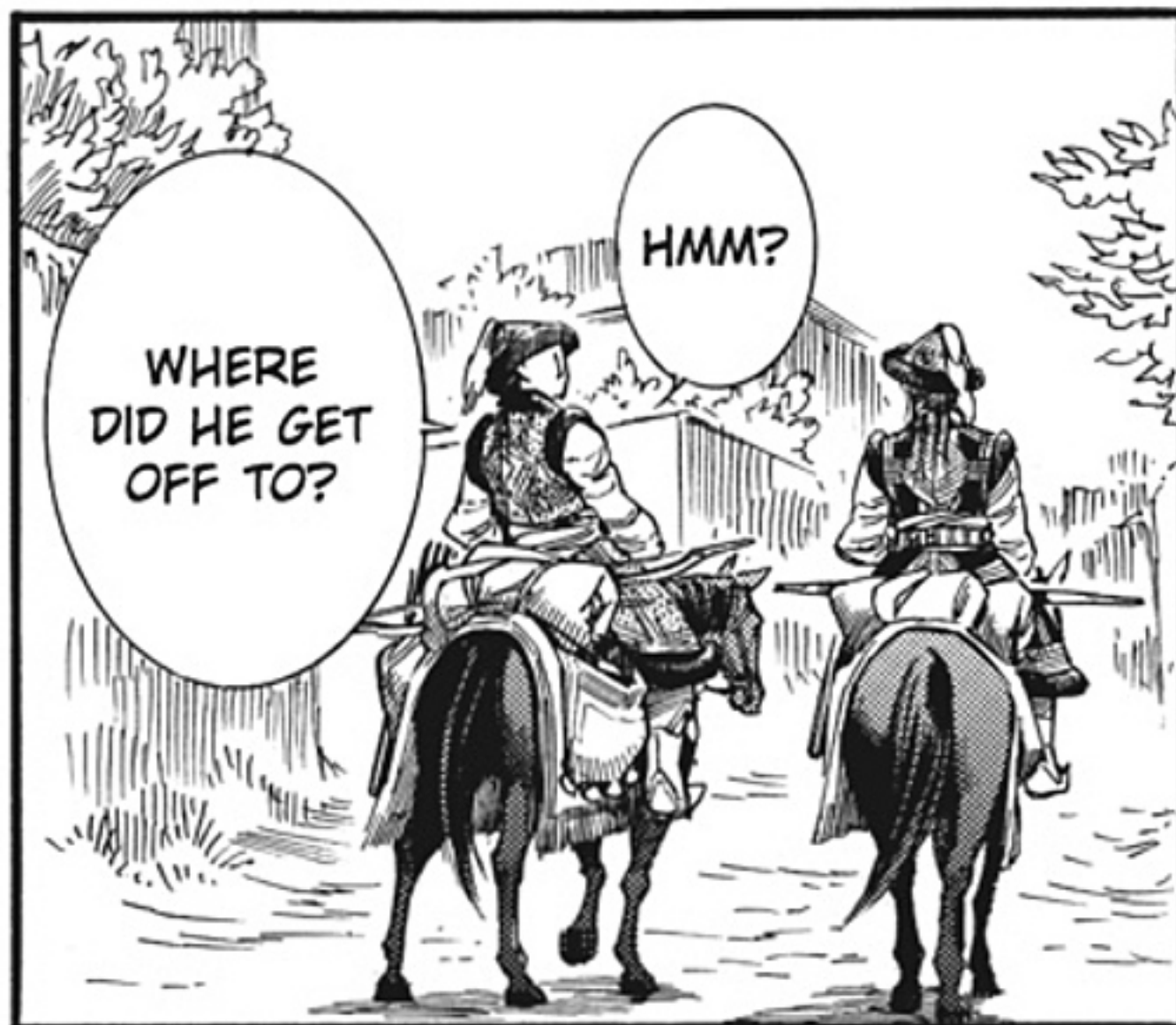
...THAT
LAMB
SLEEP-
ING
WITH
ITS
MOTH-
ER...

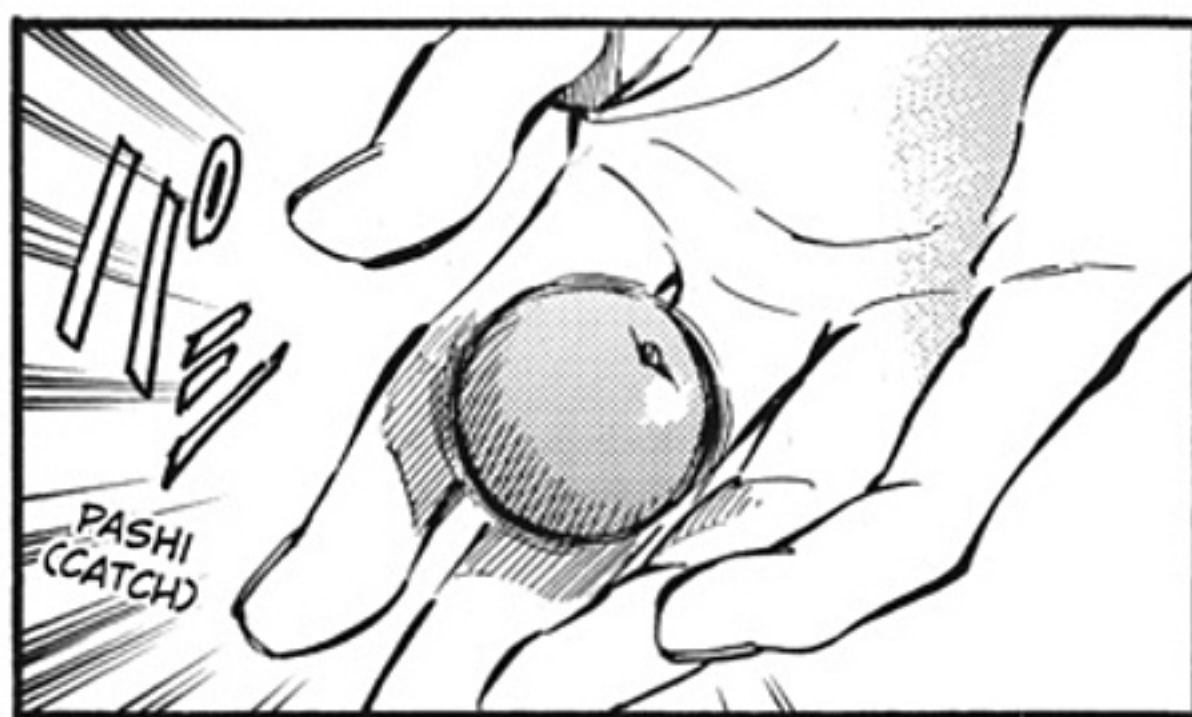


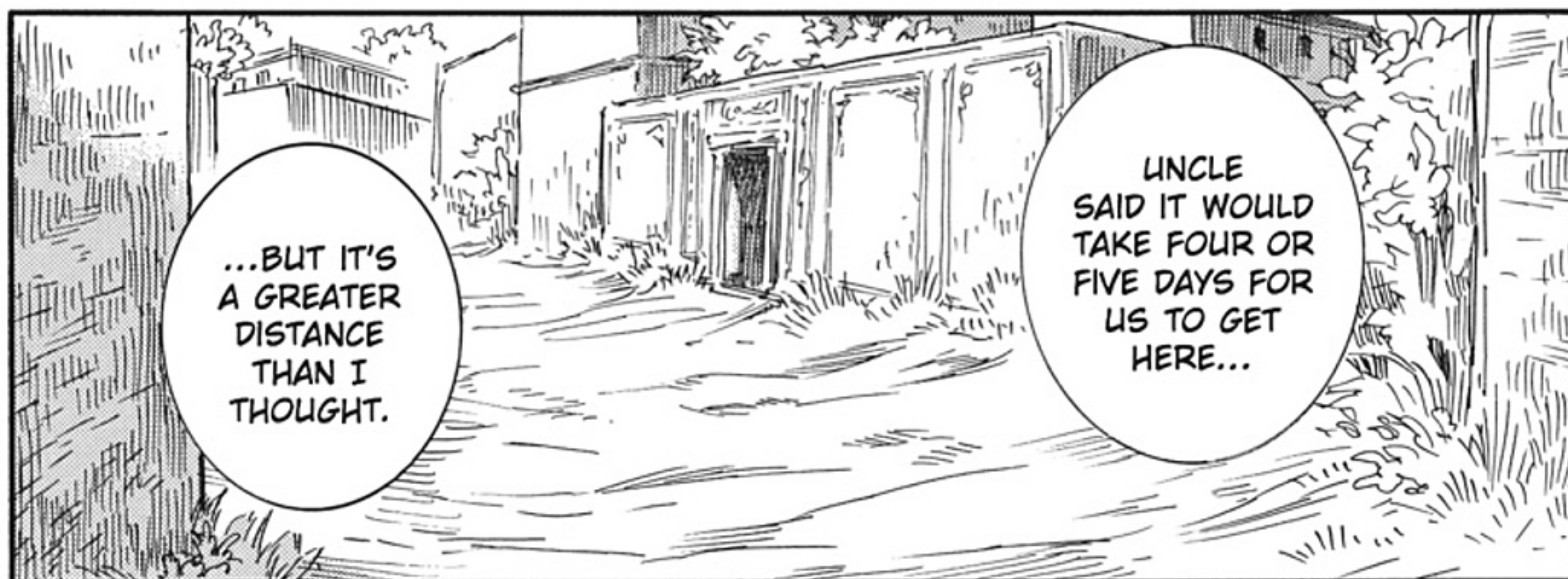




◆
CHAPTER FOUR
WE WANT AMIR
RETURNED
◆









I WANT
SOME
MUTTON.

SLICES
FRESH
OFF THE
GRILL,
PILED HIGH
ON A
PLATE!

THE
REALLY
JUICY
KIND!



.....I'M
HUNGRY.



DON'T
GET
YOUR
HOPES
UP.

POUR SOUP
ALL OVER IT,
AND SHOVEL
IT IN! OH,
THAT STUFF'S
GOOD!

SOME
FRIED
RICE
MIGHT
WORK
TOO...



WE'RE NOT
GOING TO
GET A ROYAL
WELCOME
HERE.

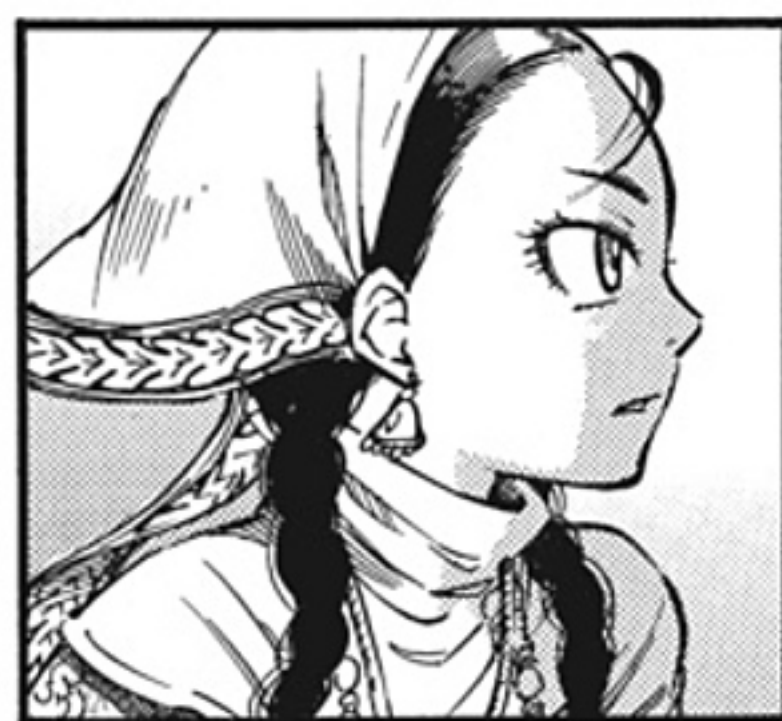


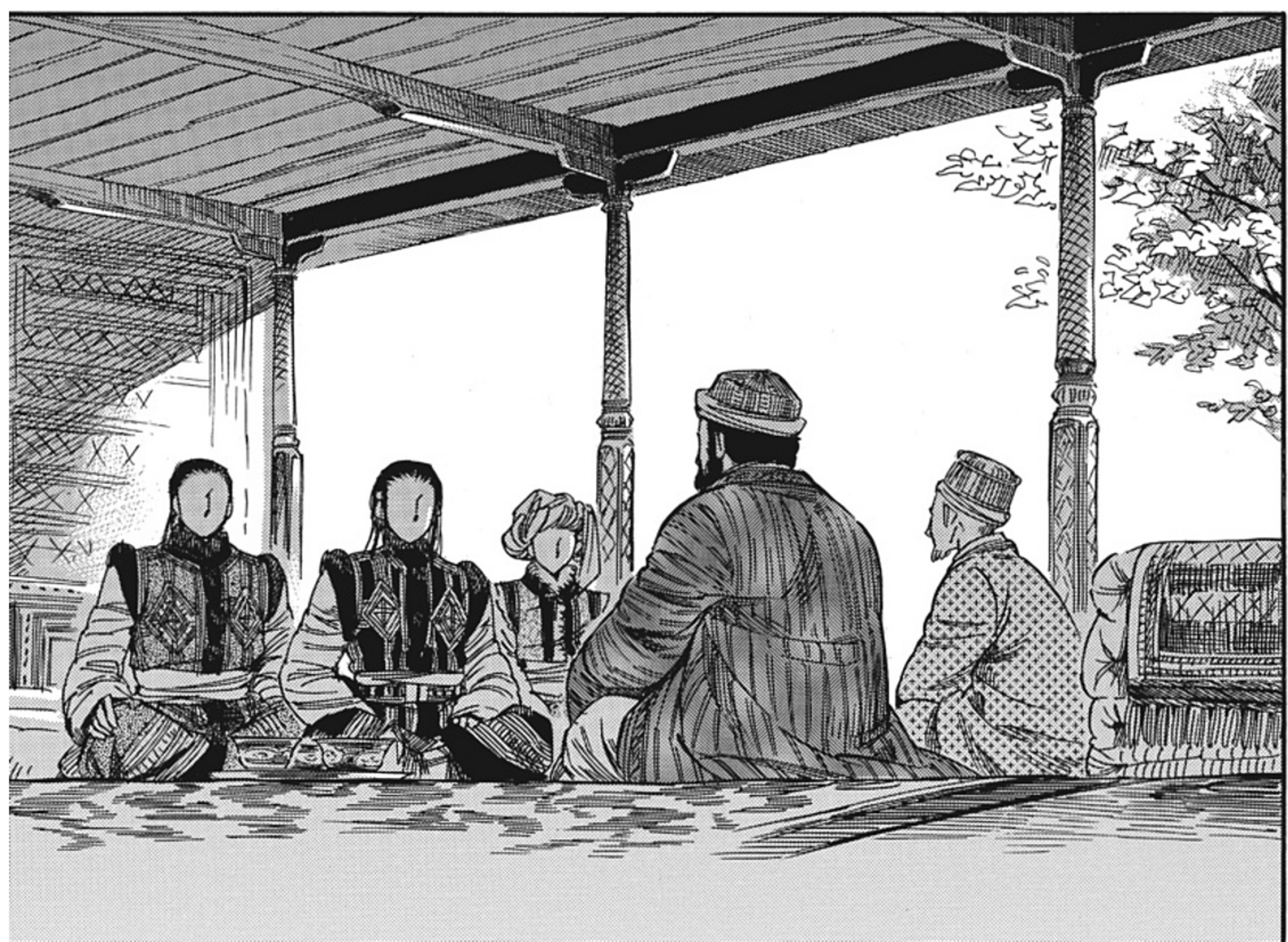
MAYBE WE
CAN GET
SOME FOOD
BEFORE WE
HAVE THE
TALK.

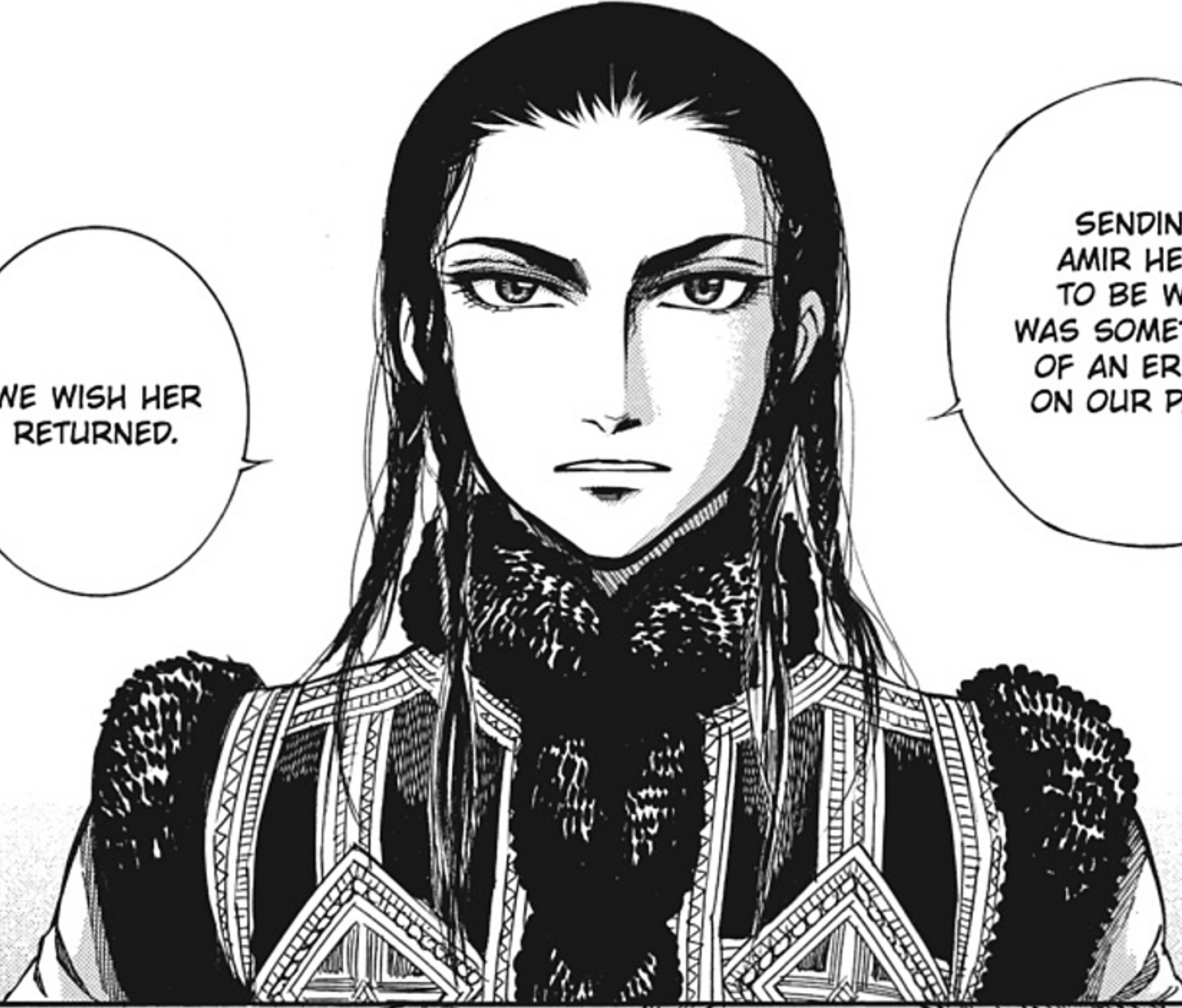
FORGET
IT. WE'RE
ALREADY
HERE.



.....







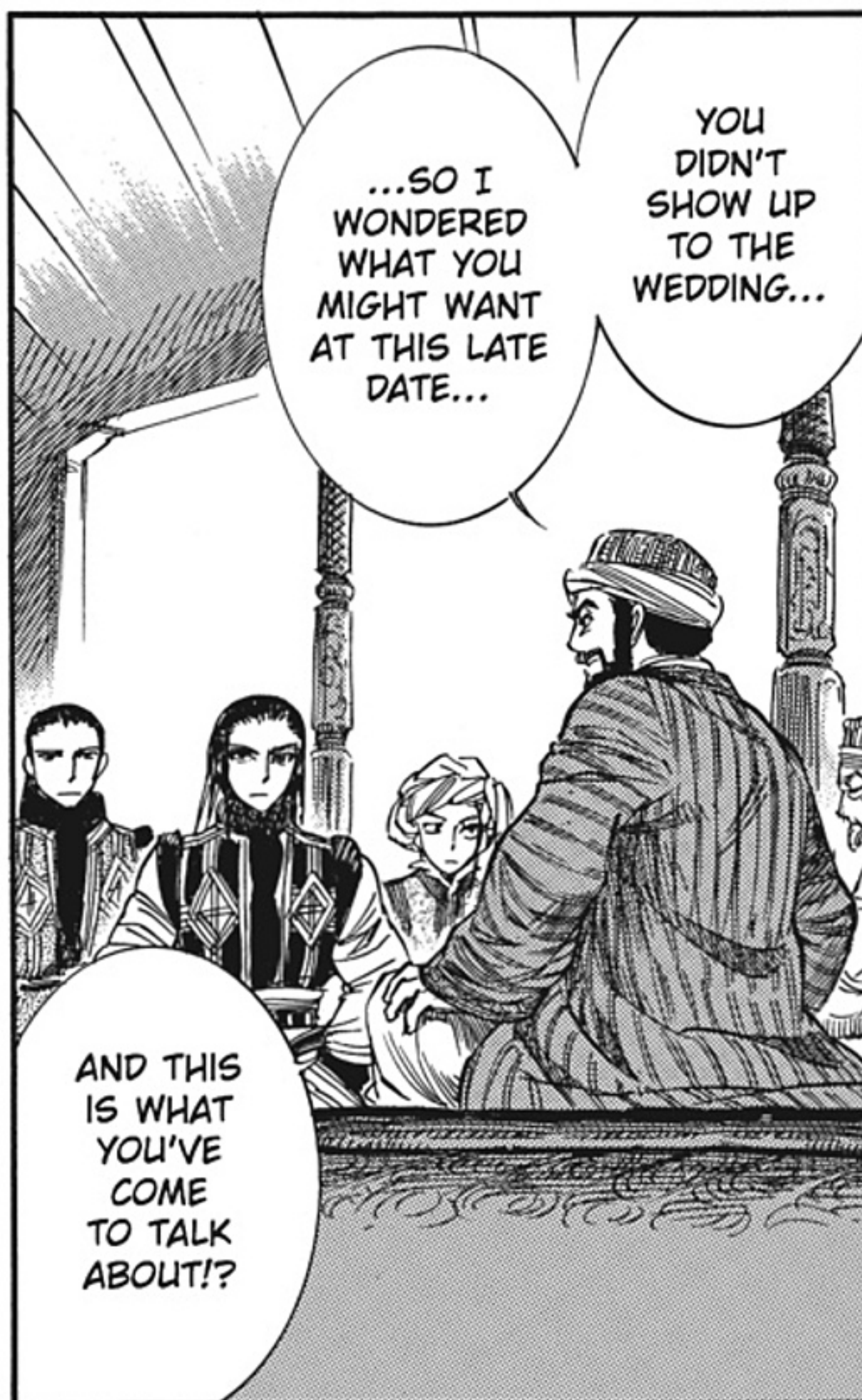
WE WISH HER
RETURNED.

SENDING
AMIR HERE
TO BE WED
WAS SOMETHING
OF AN ERROR
ON OUR PART.



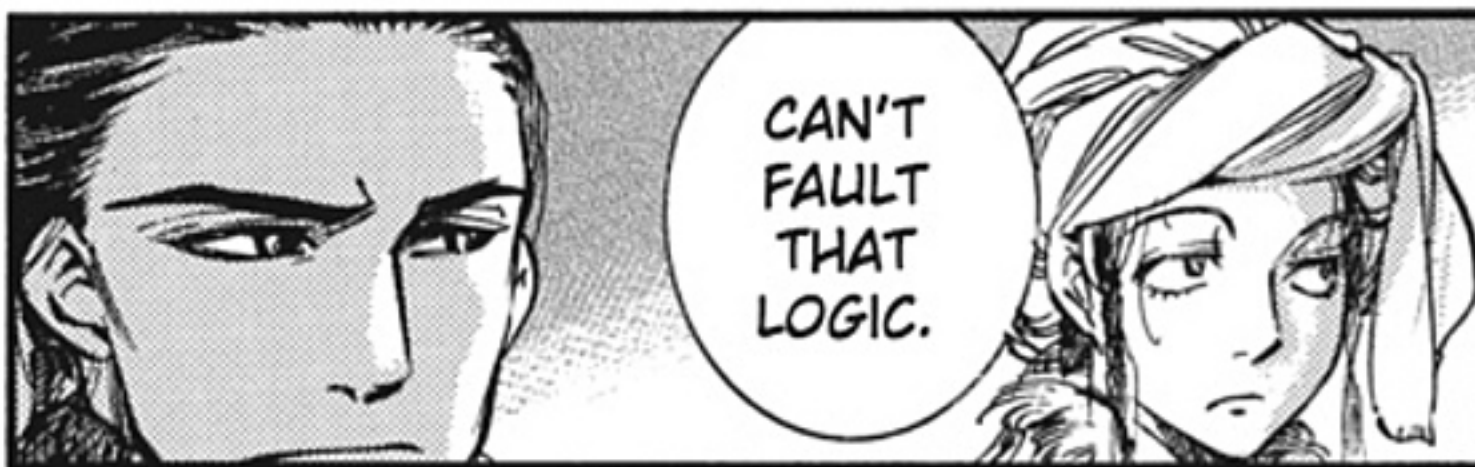
WAIT
JUST A
MOMENT!



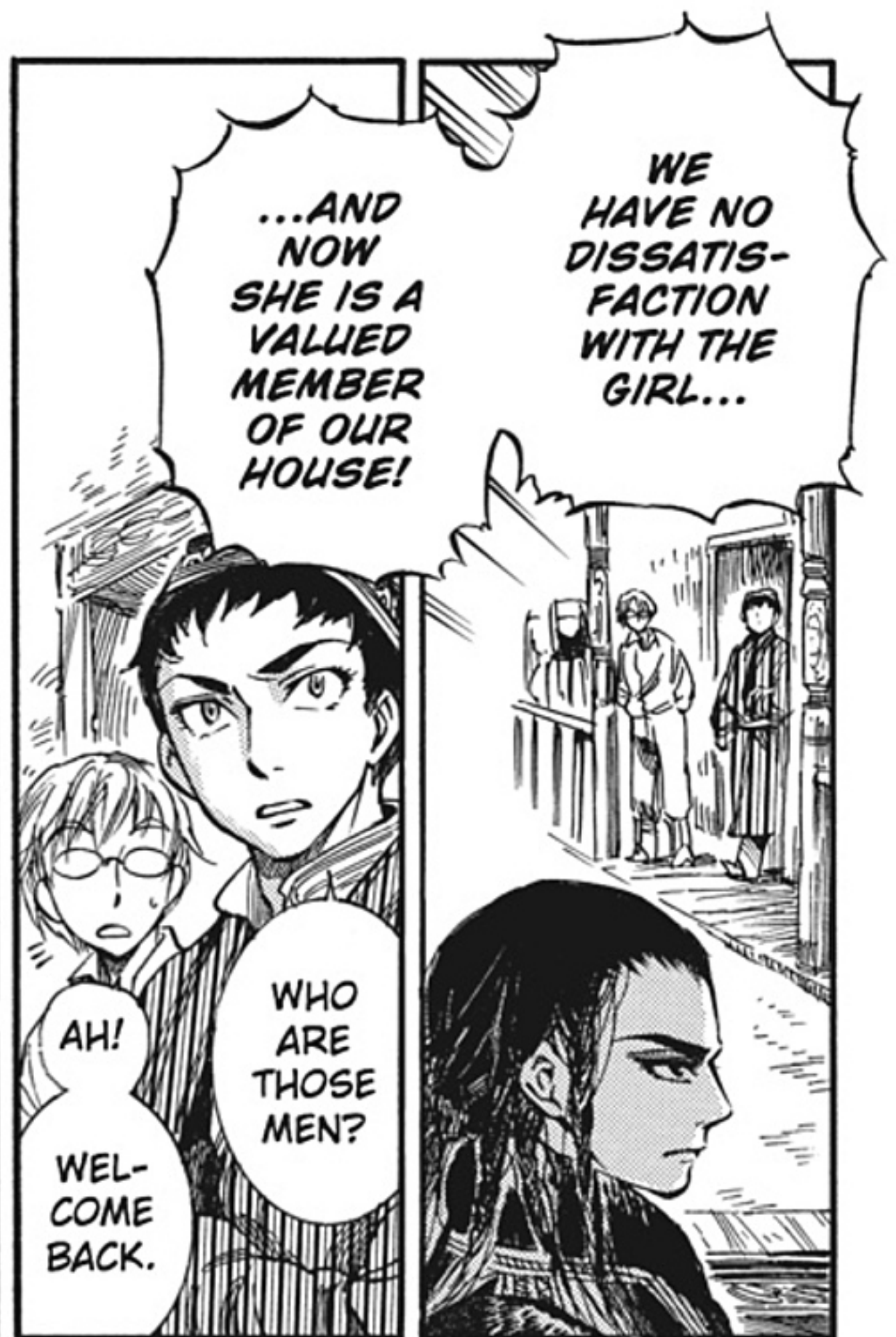




YOU DON'T
RETURN A
FAMILY
MEMBER
JUST
BECAUSE
SOMEONE
STROLLS
IN AND
DEMANDS
IT!



CAN'T
FAULT
THAT
LOGIC.



...AND
NOW
SHE IS A
VALUED
MEMBER
OF OUR
HOUSE!

WE
HAVE NO
DISSATIS-
FACTION
WITH THE
GIRL...

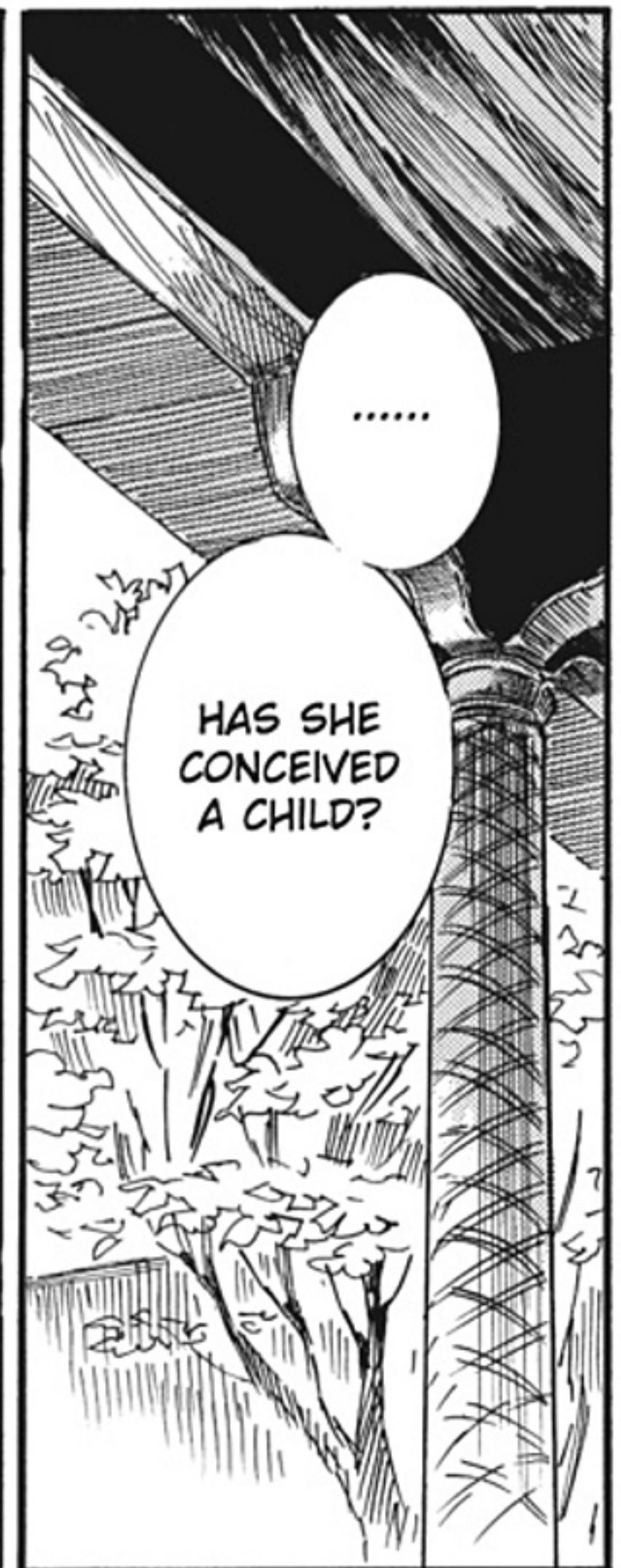
AH!

WEL-
COME
BACK.

WHO
ARE
THOSE
MEN?

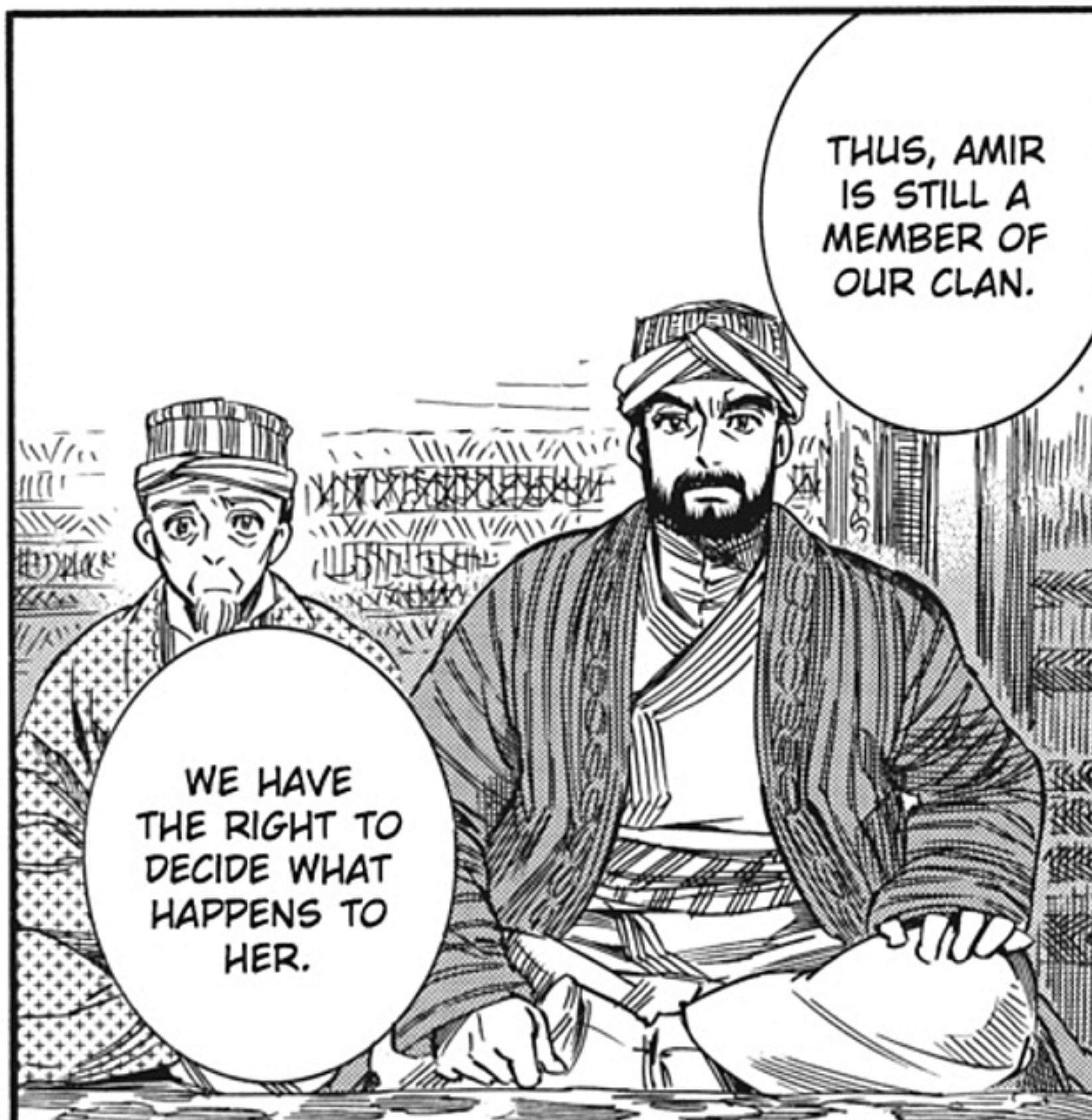


A COUPLE
IS NOT
OFFICIALLY
MAN AND
WIFE UNTIL
A CHILD IS
BORN.



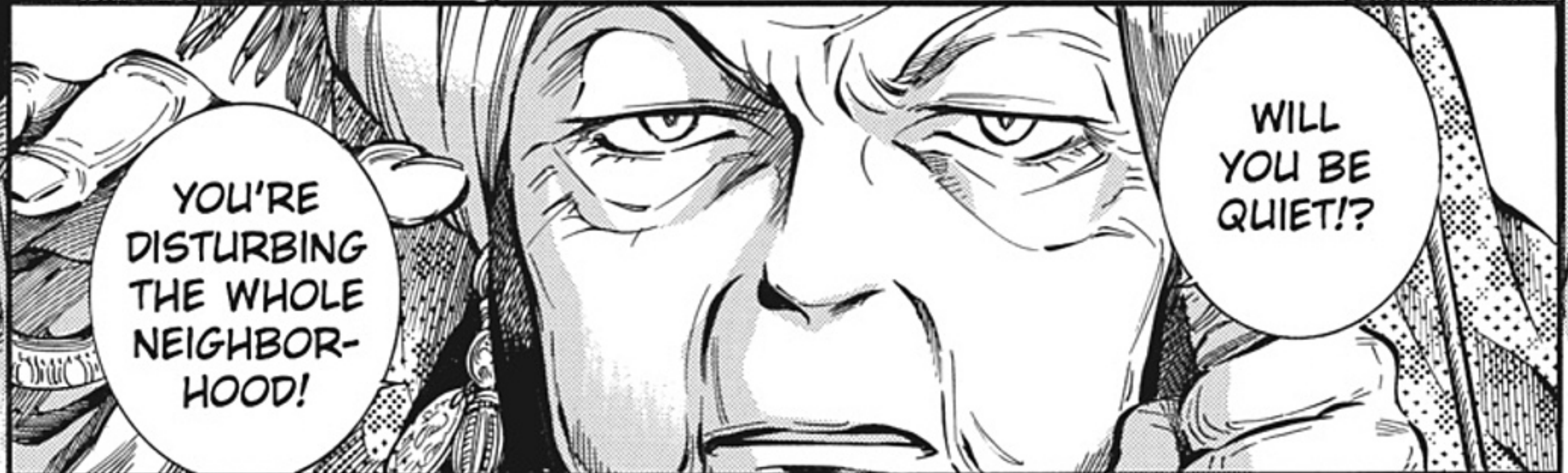
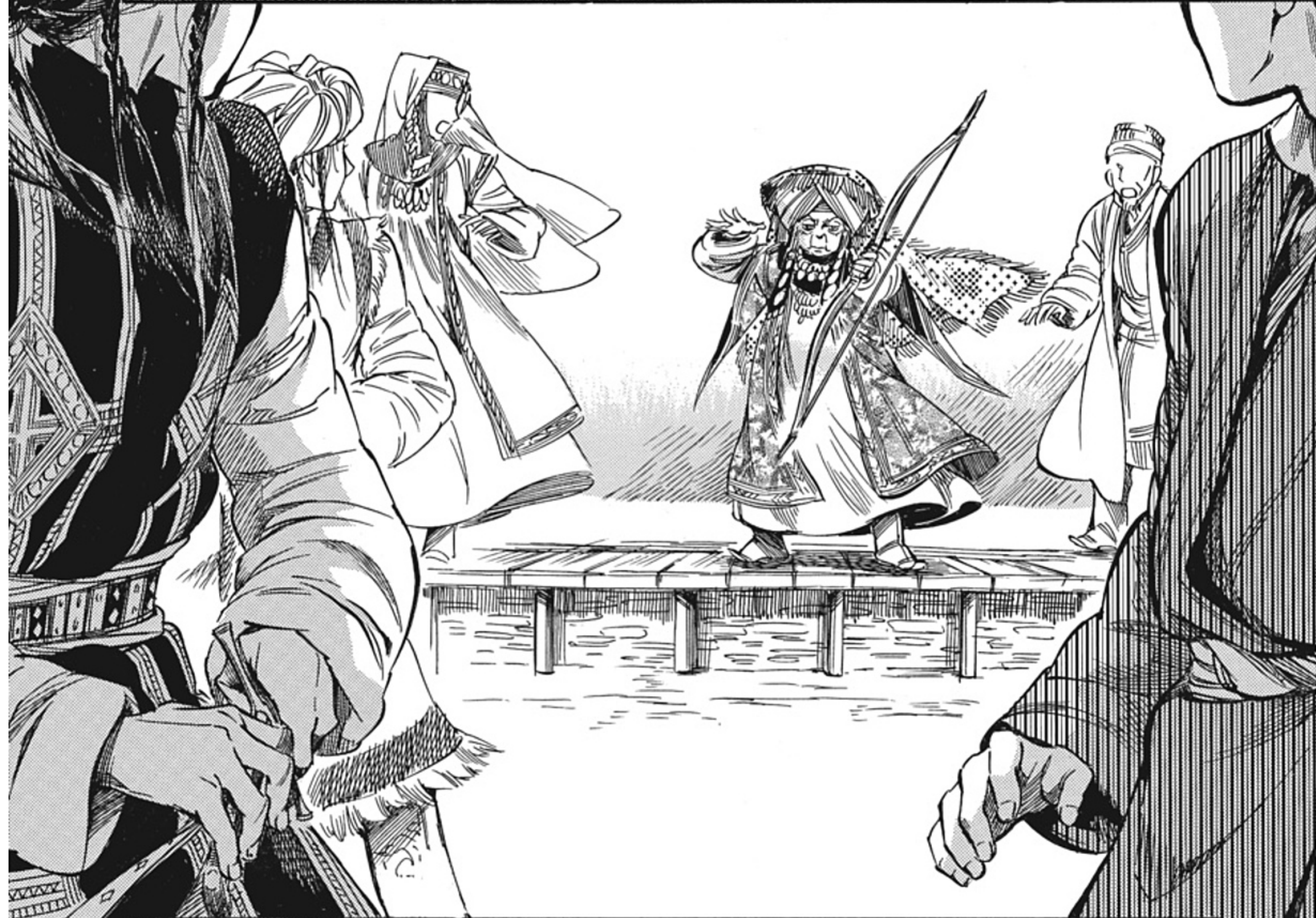
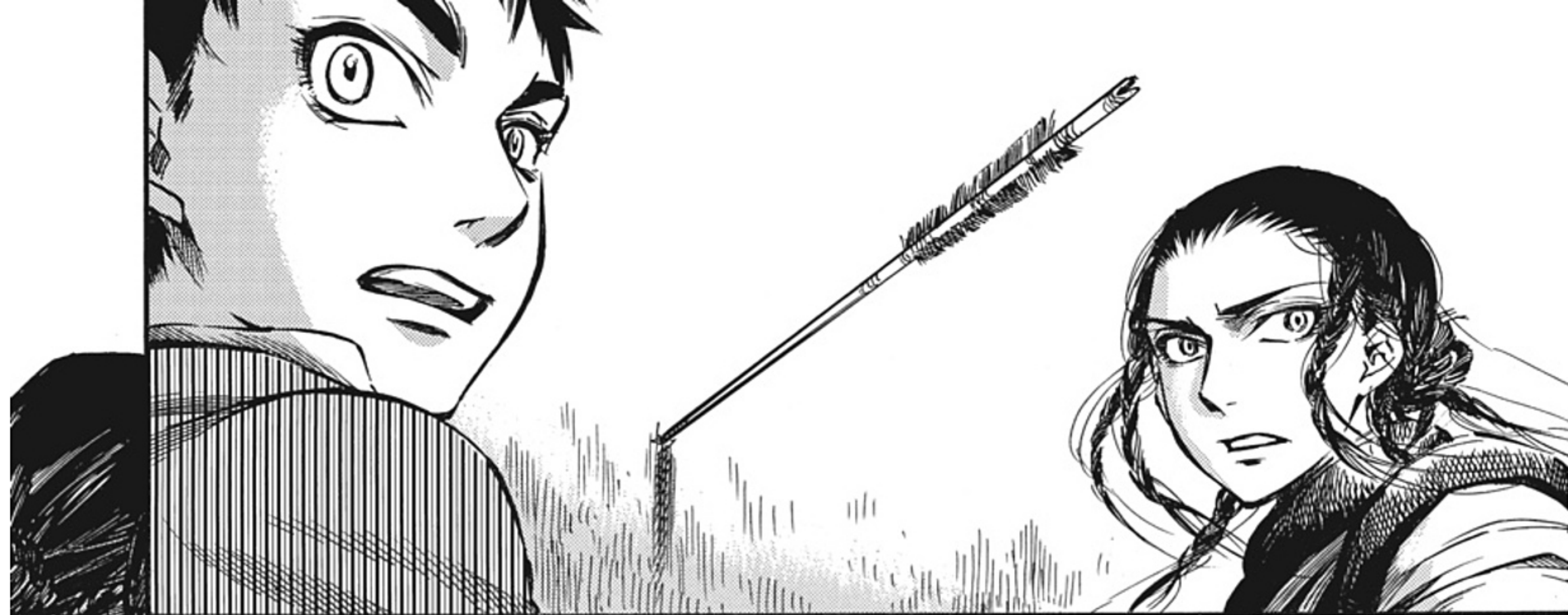
.....

HAS SHE
CONCEIVED
A CHILD?











AMIR
IS NOT
HERE.

AND EVEN
IF SHE
WERE, WE
WOULDN'T
HAND HER
OVER.

NOW
LEAVE.



M-M-M-
MOTH-
ER...!!

DEAR...



WE DID
NOT INTEND
FOR OUR
NEWS TO
CAUSE
YOU ANY
DISTRESS.

HONOR-
ABLE
MATRON.

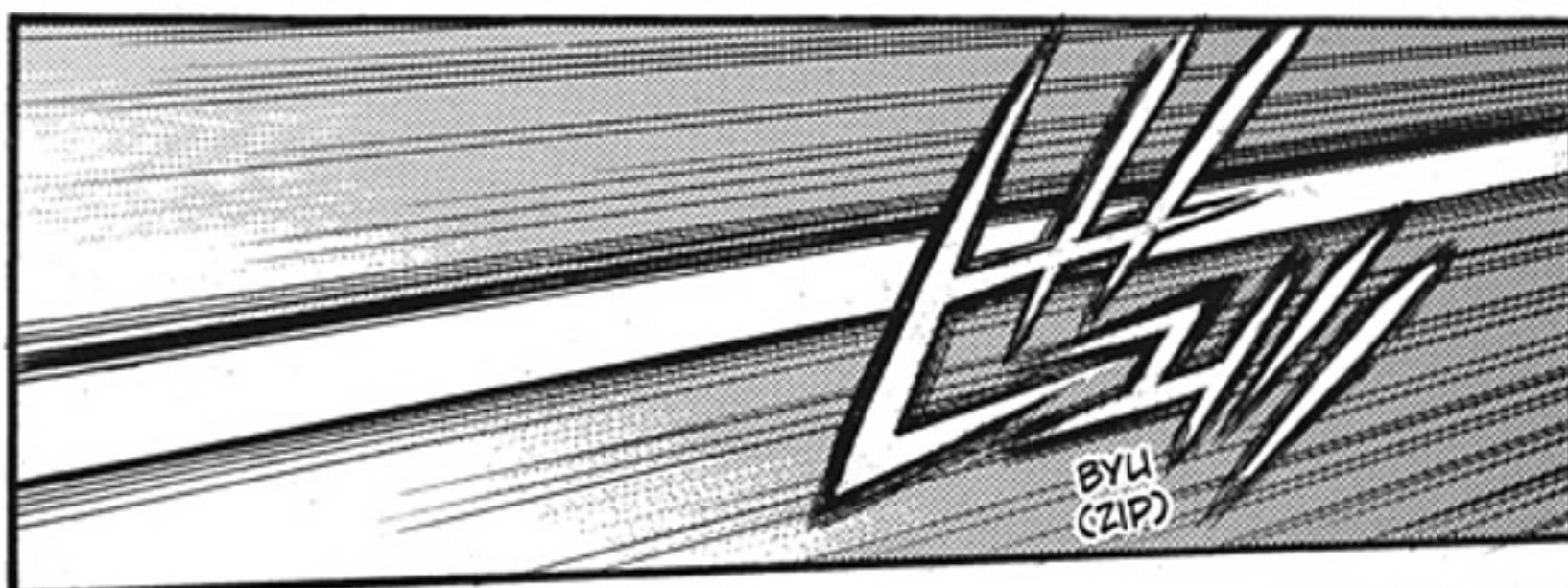


SHE
IS NOT
"OF YOUR
HOUSE"
YET, IS
SHE?



DISTRESSING
NEWS
INDEED!

FINE WORDS
FROM A MAN
WHO SHOWS
UP SUDDENLY,
DEMANDING
THAT WE TURN
OVER A WOMAN
OF OUR
HOUSE...





**YOU HAVE
NO CLAIM
OF KINSHIP
OR ANY
RIGHT TO
HER ANY-
MORE!!**

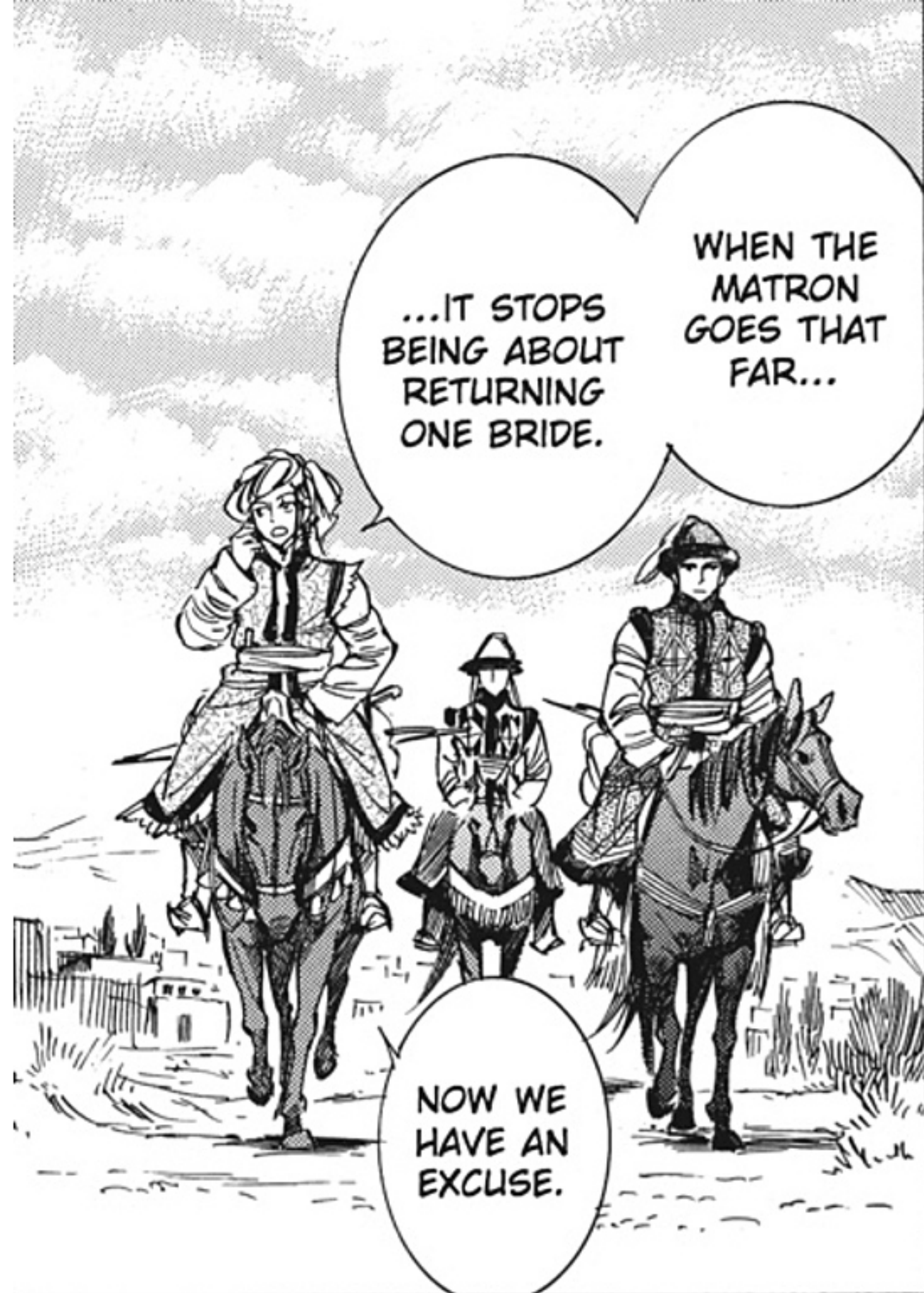
**NOW
GET
OUT!!**



**...IT
WON'T GO
WELL FOR
YOU!! JUST
REMEMBER
THAT!!**

**AND IF
YOU TRY
TO LAY
HANDS ON
A WOMAN
OF MY
HOUSE
AGAIN...**







IF I
HADN'T SAID
WHAT I DID,
HE'D NEVER
HAVE LEFT.

AZEL,
THE ELDEST
BROTHER.

HE'S ALWAYS
BEEN FAR TOO
EARNEST.



BY THE
WAY...

UM...



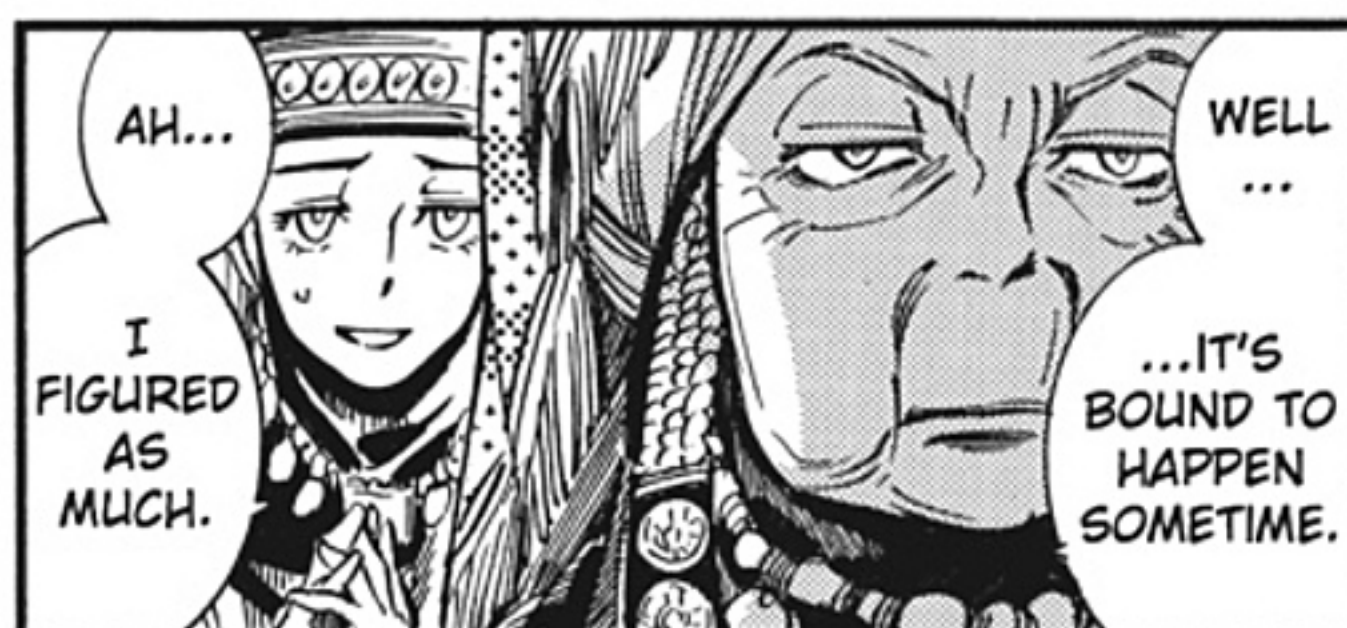
.....



THE ONES
GIVING THE
ORDERS ARE
PROBABLY
THE ELDERS OF
THE CLAN.

THE MINUTE
THE OLD
LEADER OF THE
CLAN DIED,
THEY STARTED
ACTING
AS THEY
PLEASED.

EVEN
GOING SO
FAR AS TO
USE HER
OLDER
BROTHER.



AH...

I
FIGURED
AS
MUCH.

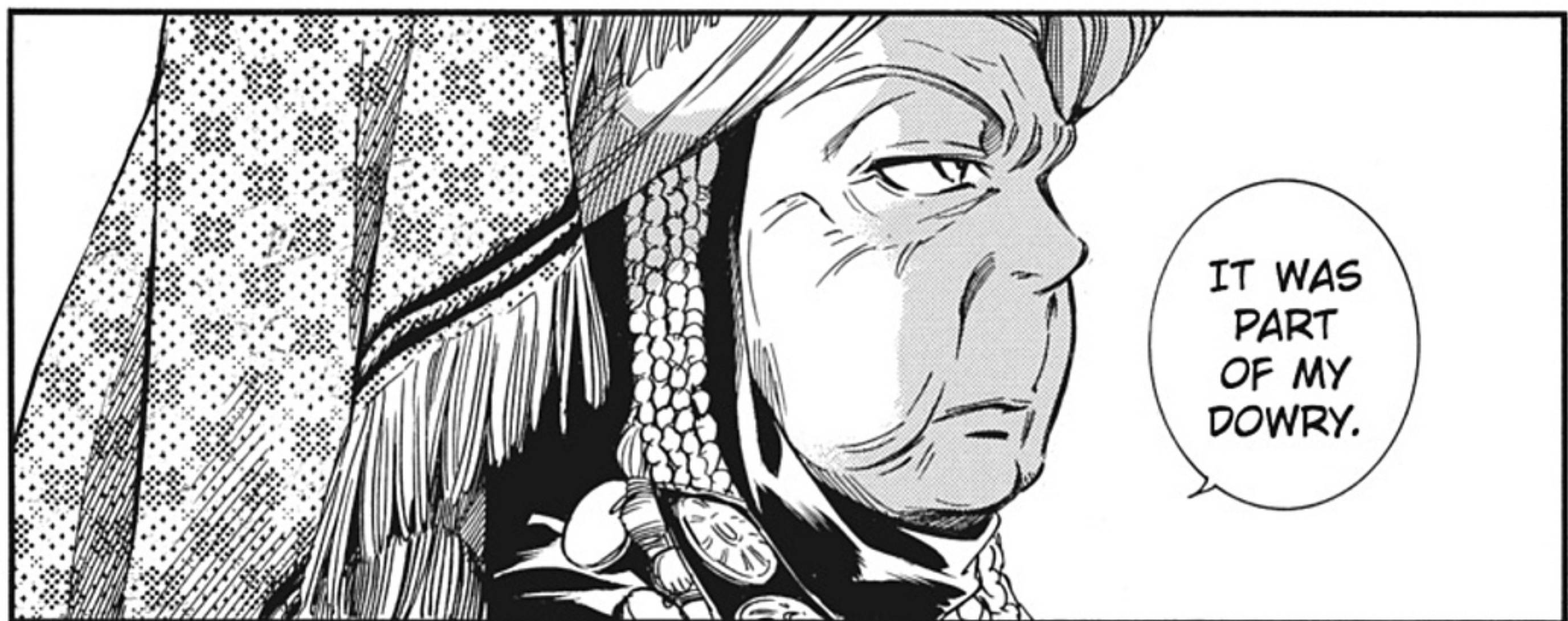
WELL
...

...IT'S
BOUND TO
HAPPEN
SOMETIME.

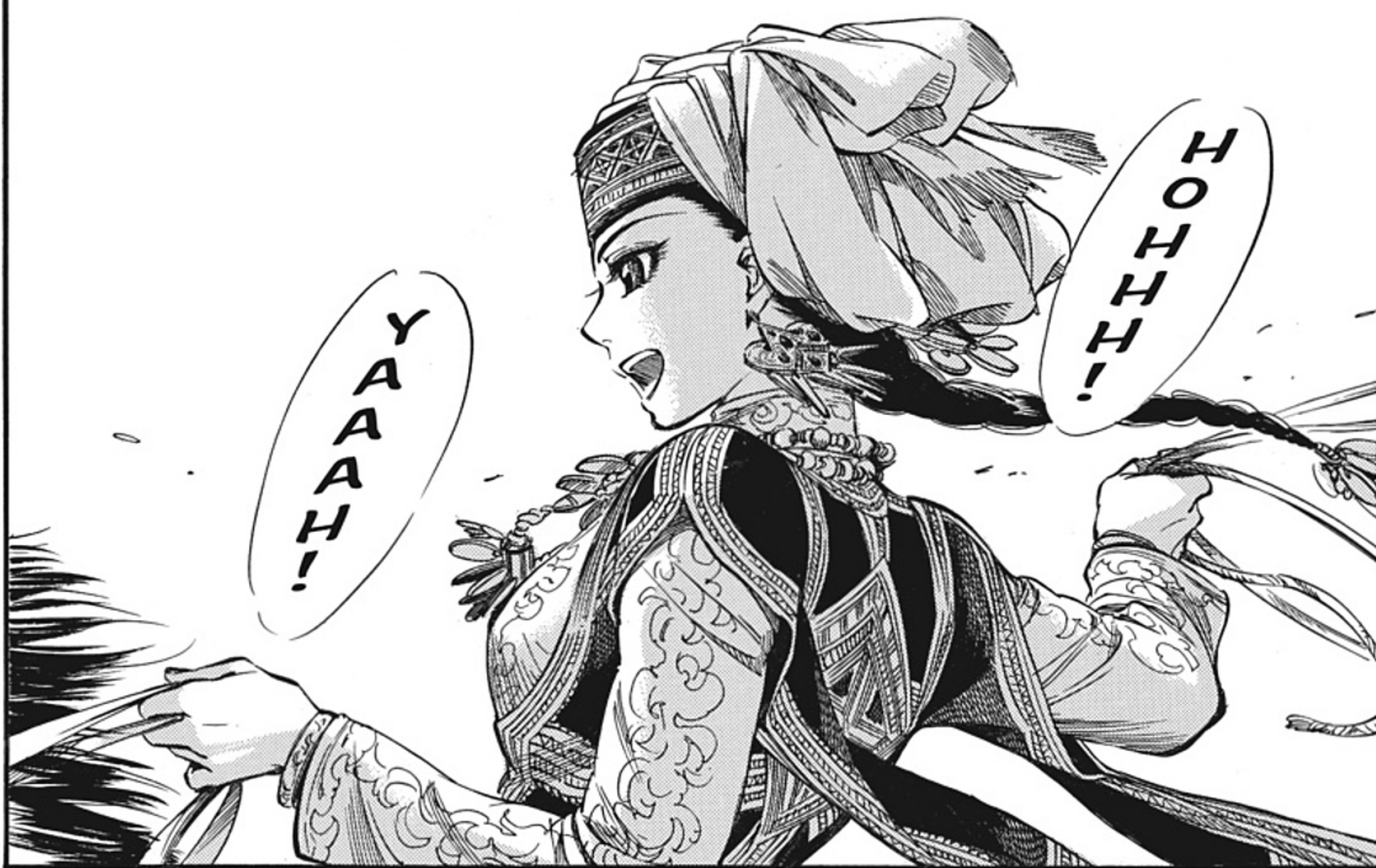


WHAT
YOU JUST
SAID...

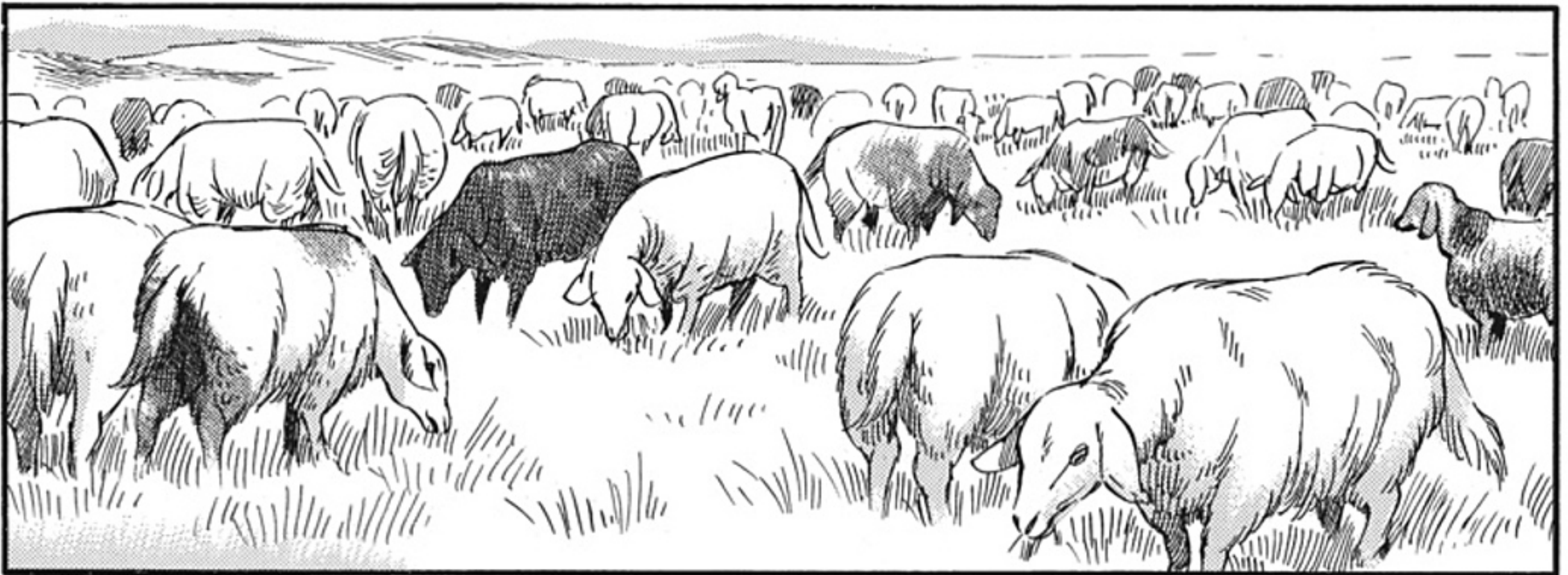
...ABOUT
AMIR BEING
WITH CHILD...
IS IT TRUE?

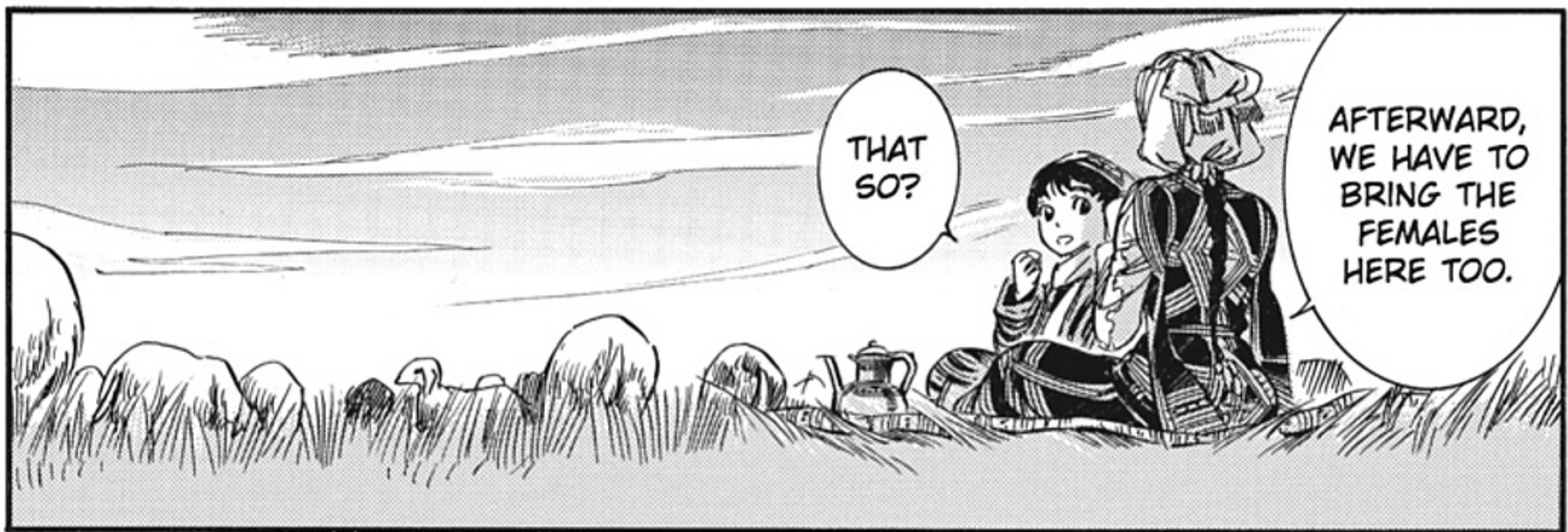
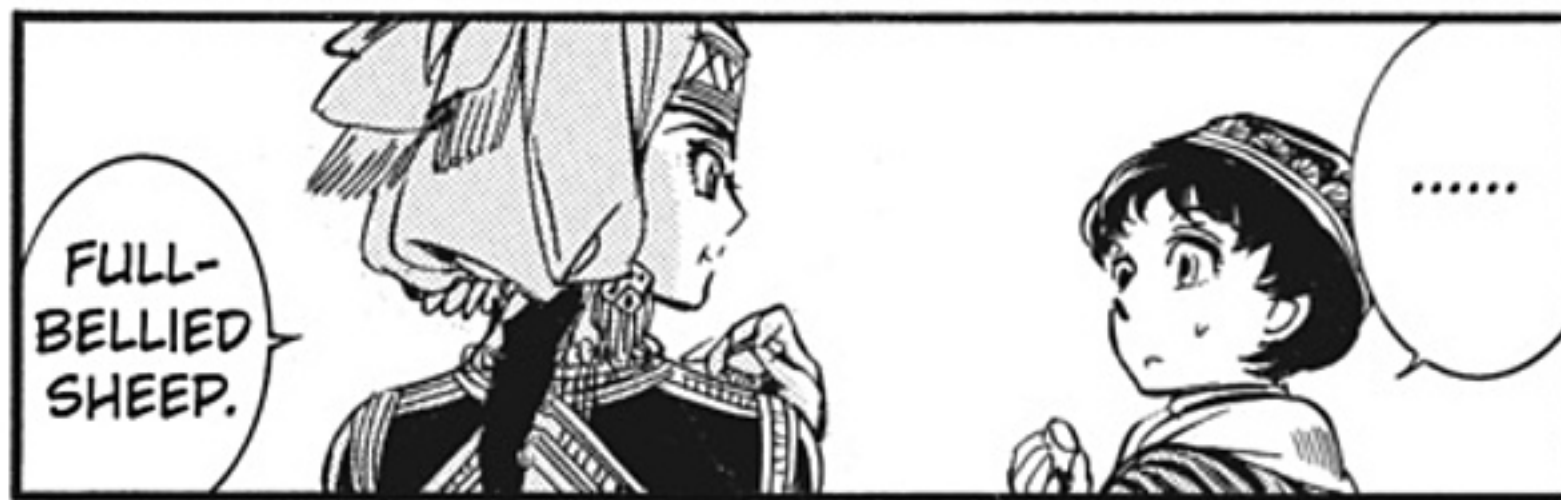


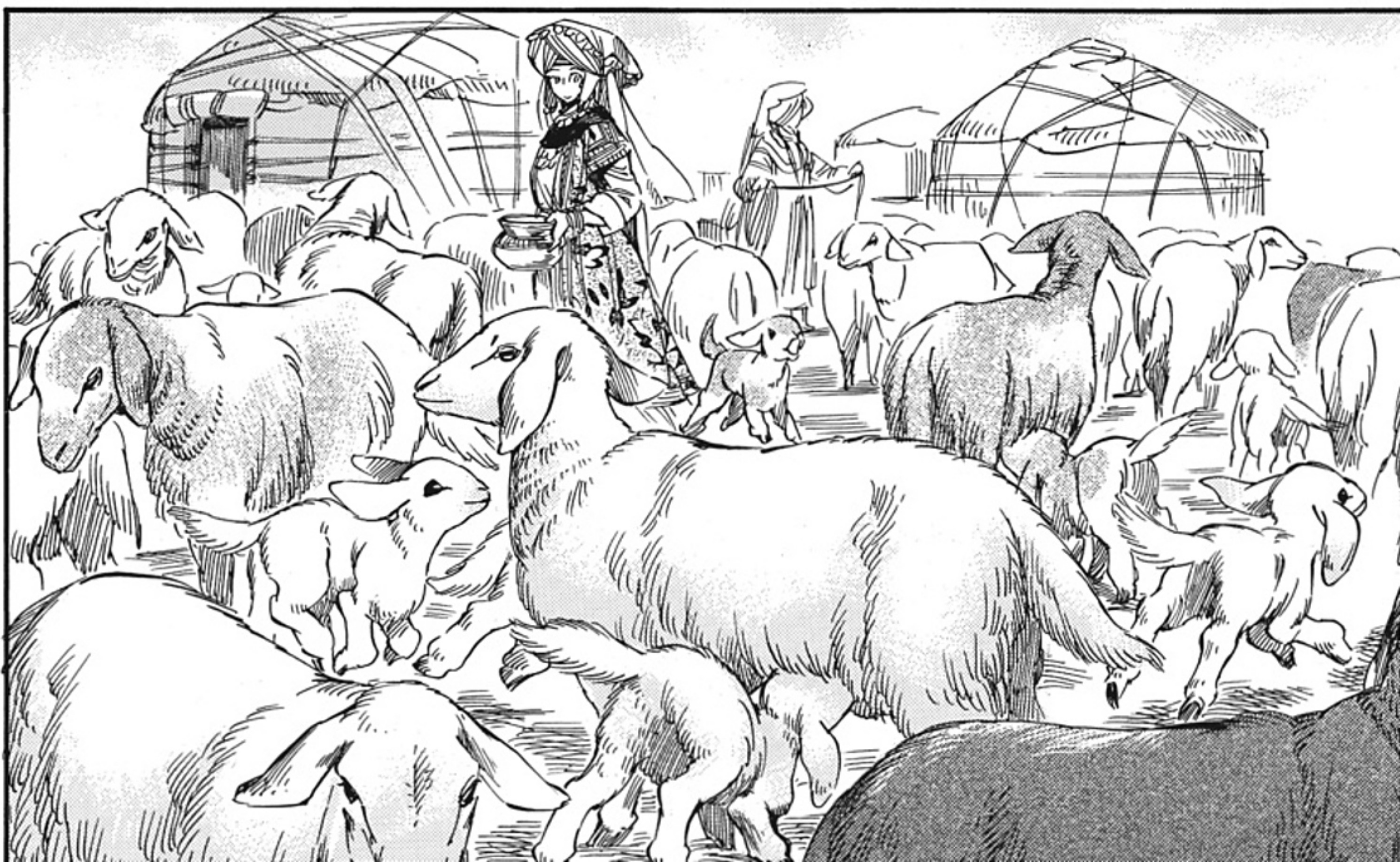
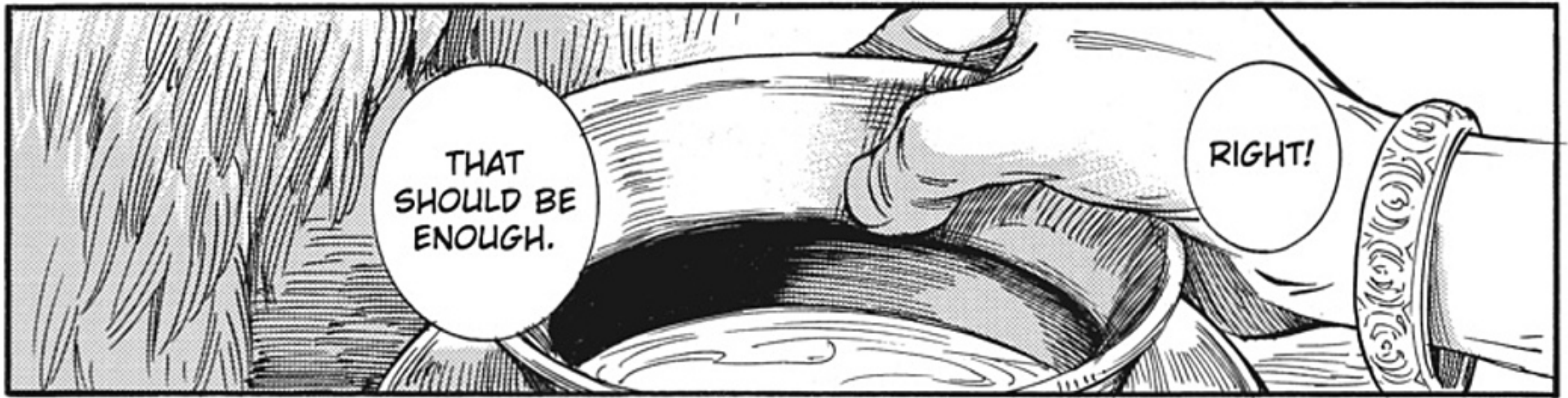










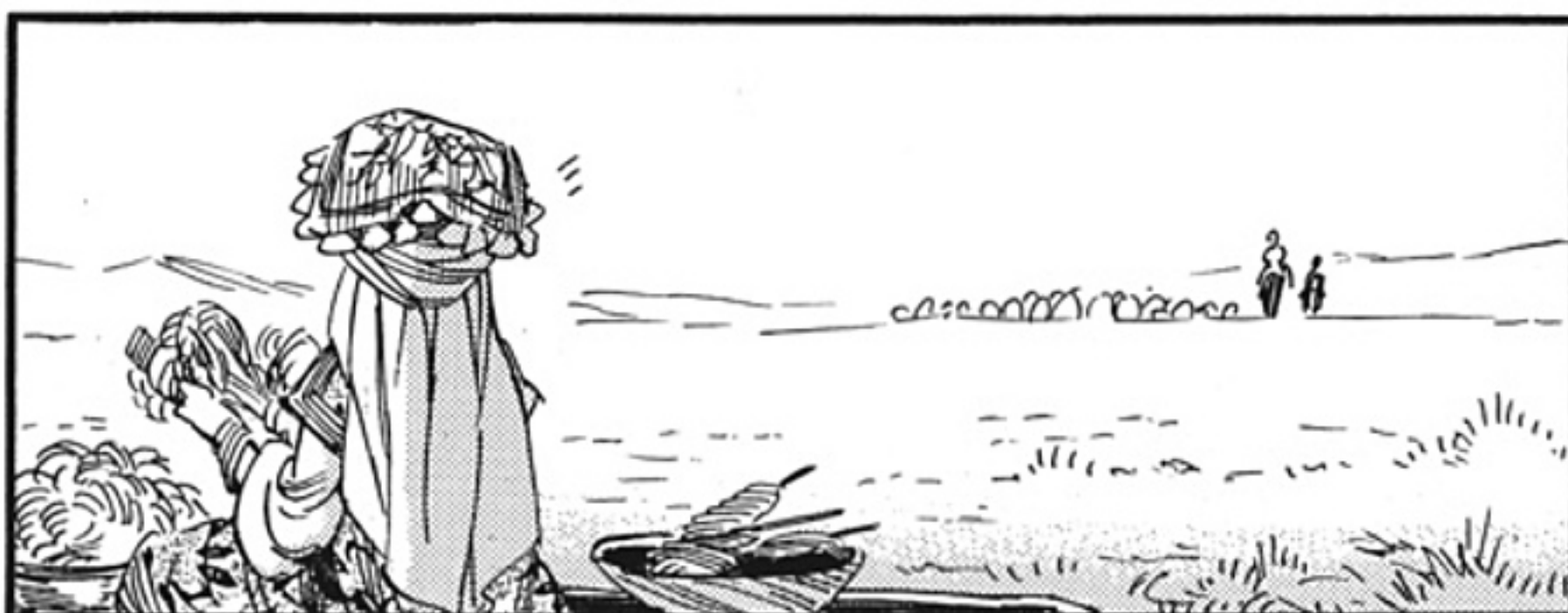
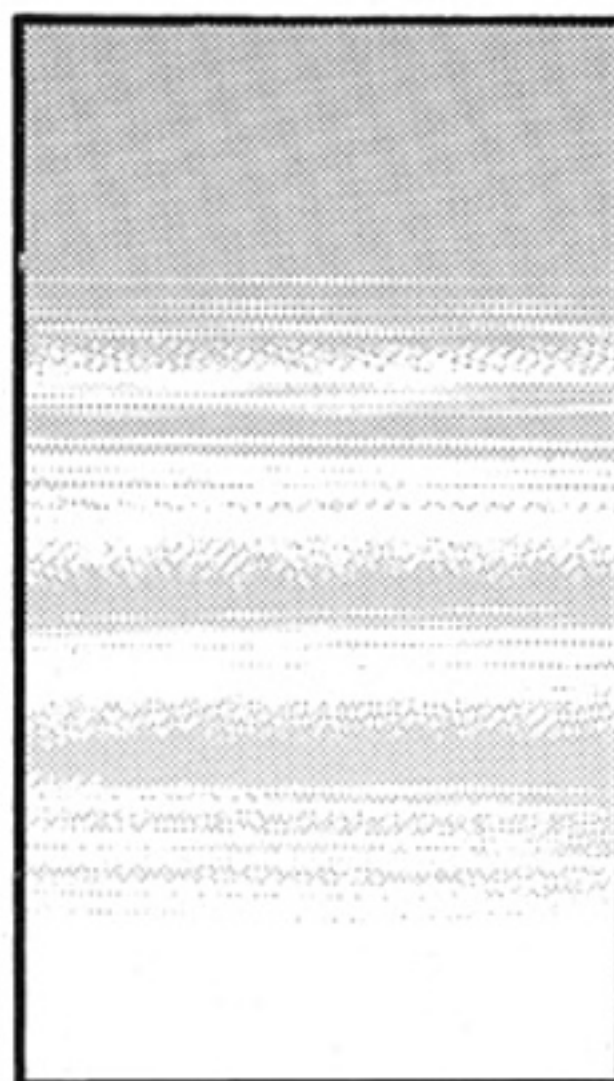




WE'RE BACK.

THANK YOU!

SORRY TO ASK YOU TO DO THIS!



HEY! STOP YOUR PLAYING!

YOU HAVE TO TAKE THEM TO GRAZE!



SHALL WE TAKE OUT THE EWES AS WELL?

DON'T BOTHER! YOU CAN RELAX NOW.



I MEAN, HONESTLY!

FORCING GUESTS TO WORK! I'M SO ASHAMED!





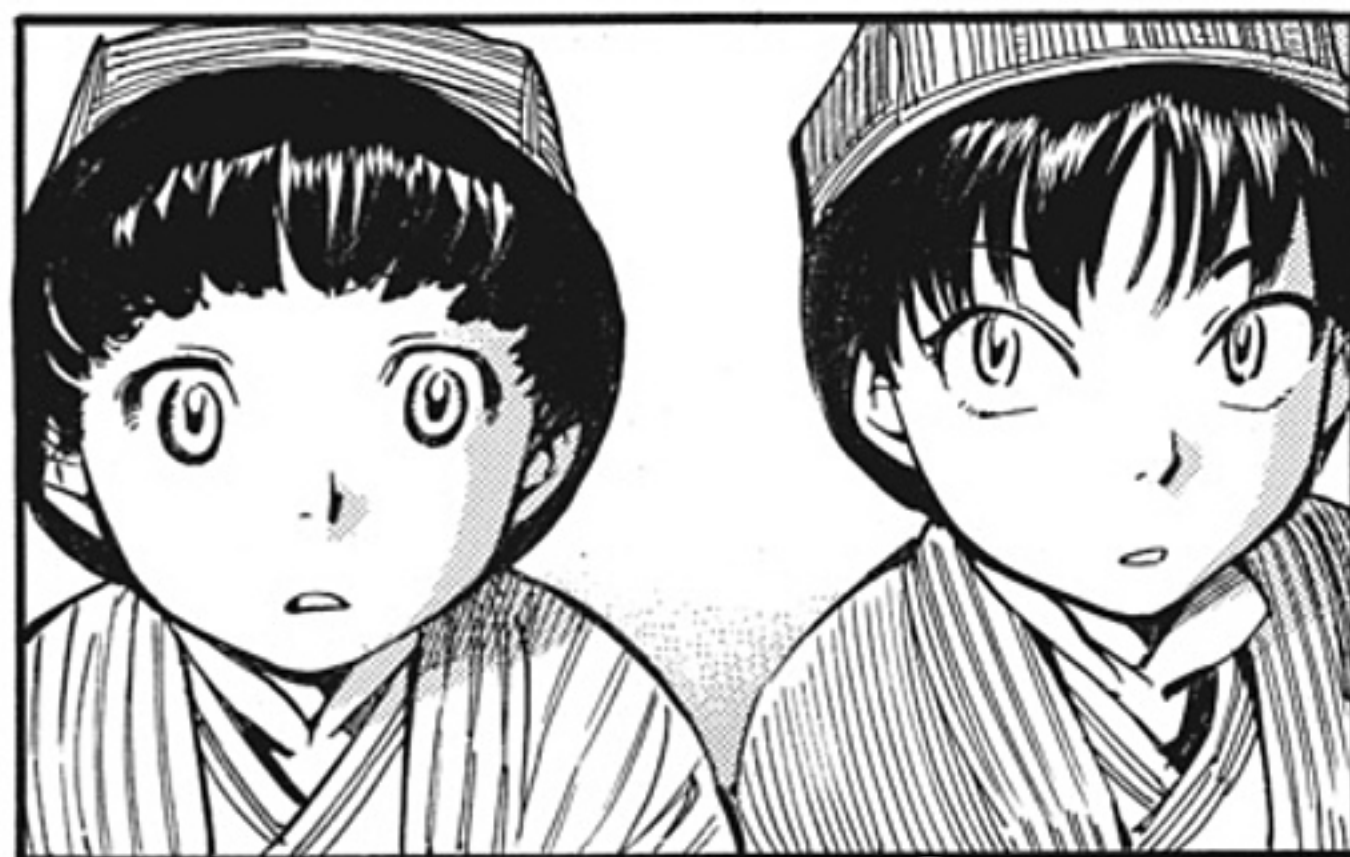


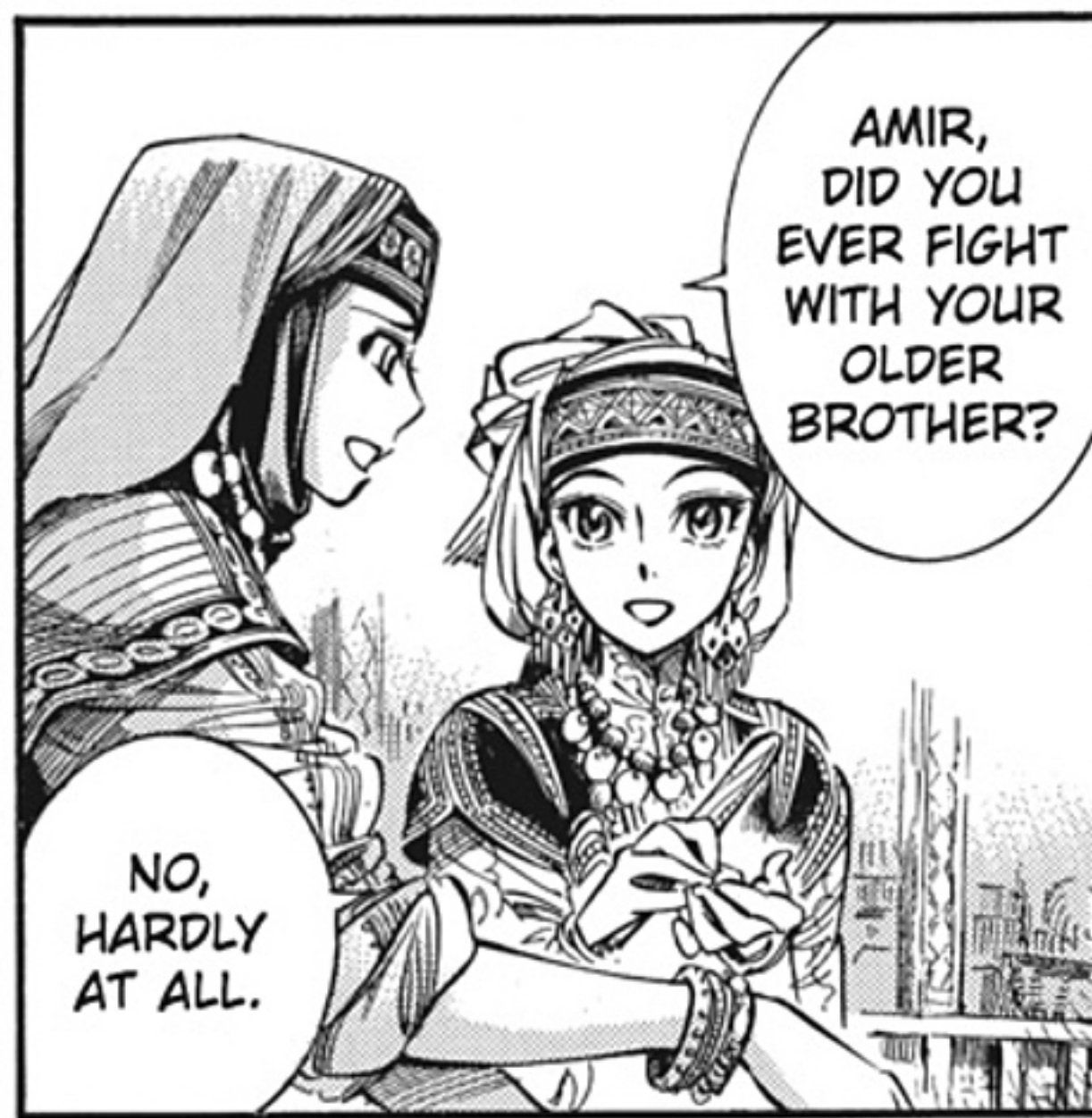
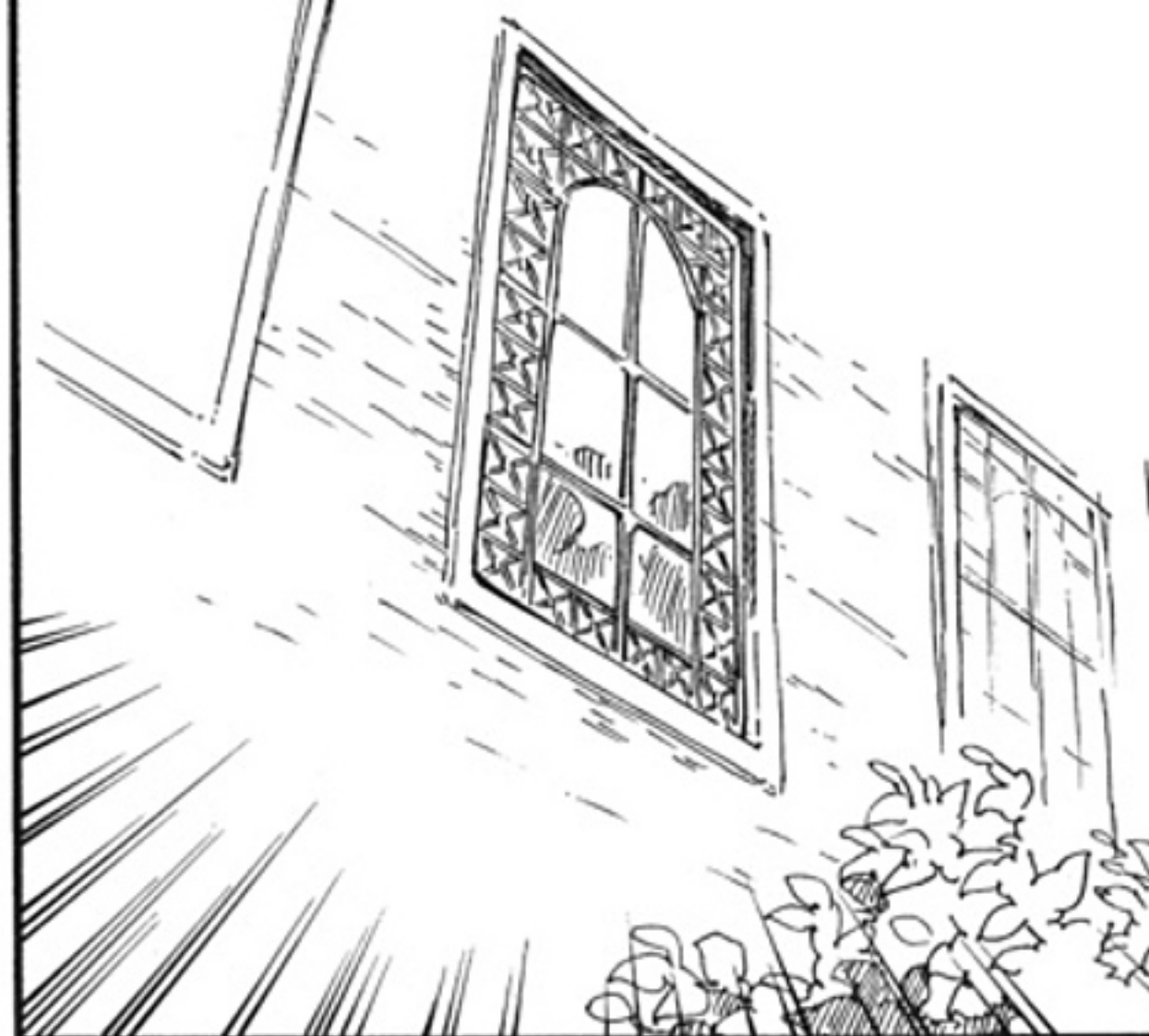




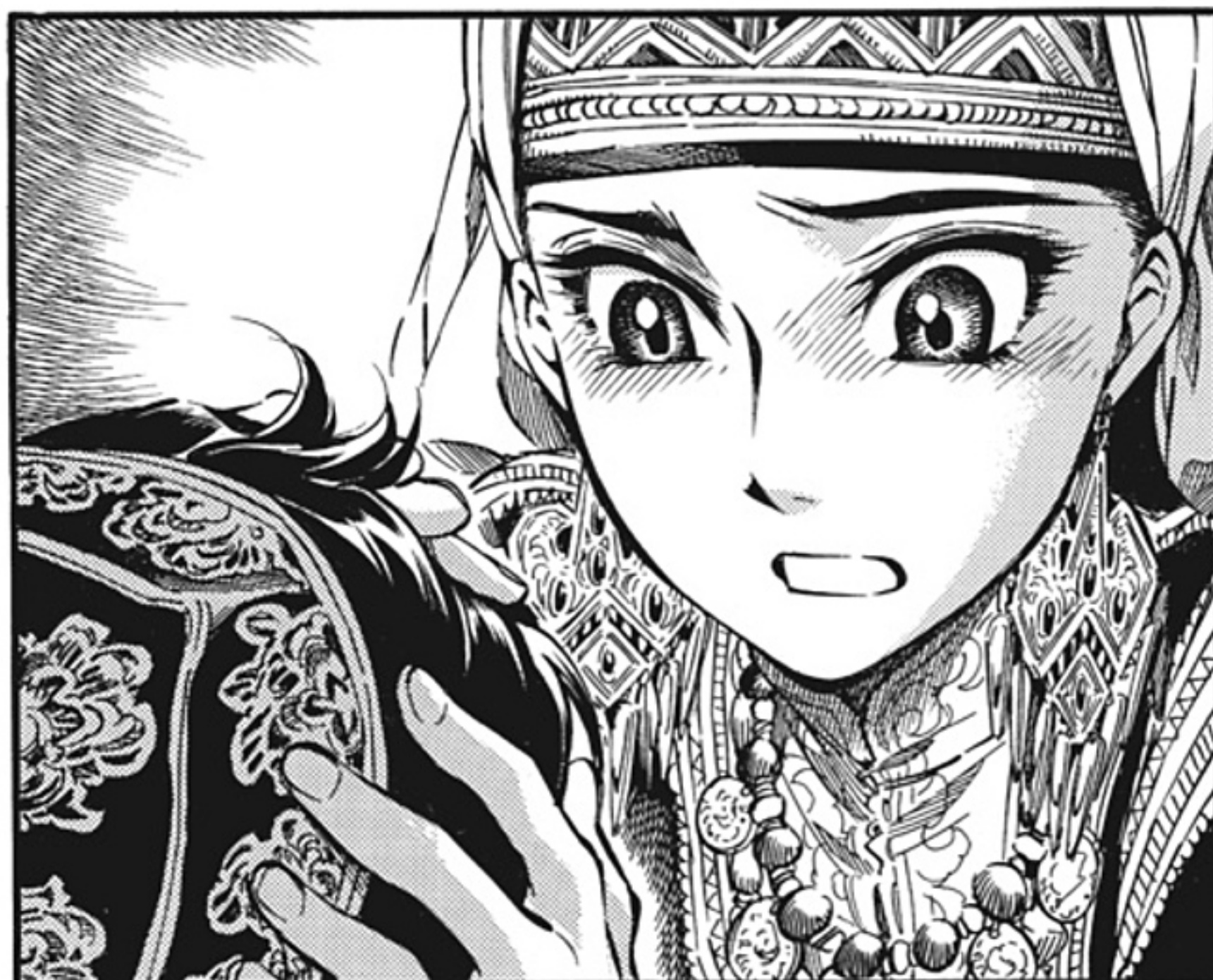
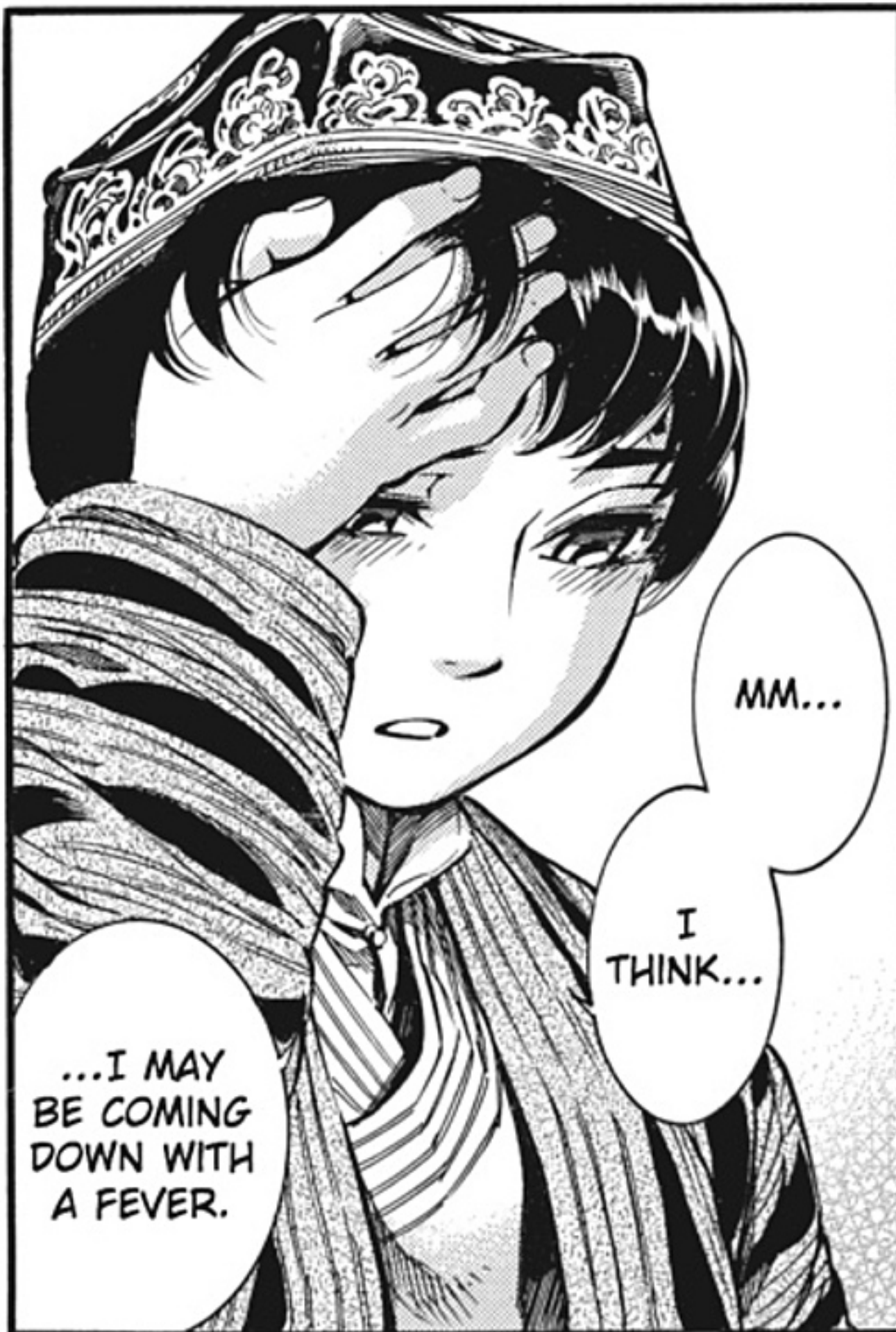
CHAPTER FIVE
THE COLD



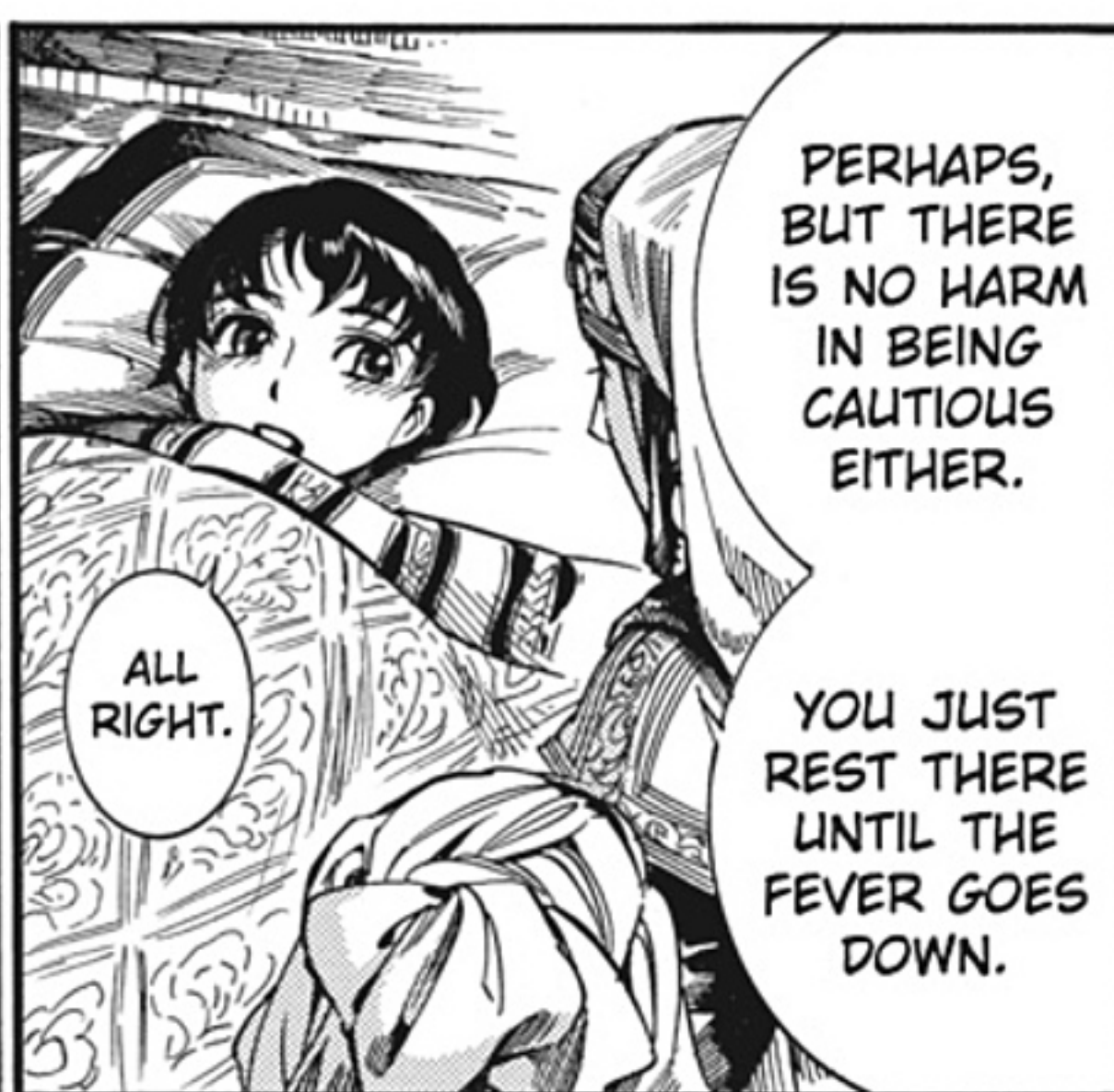


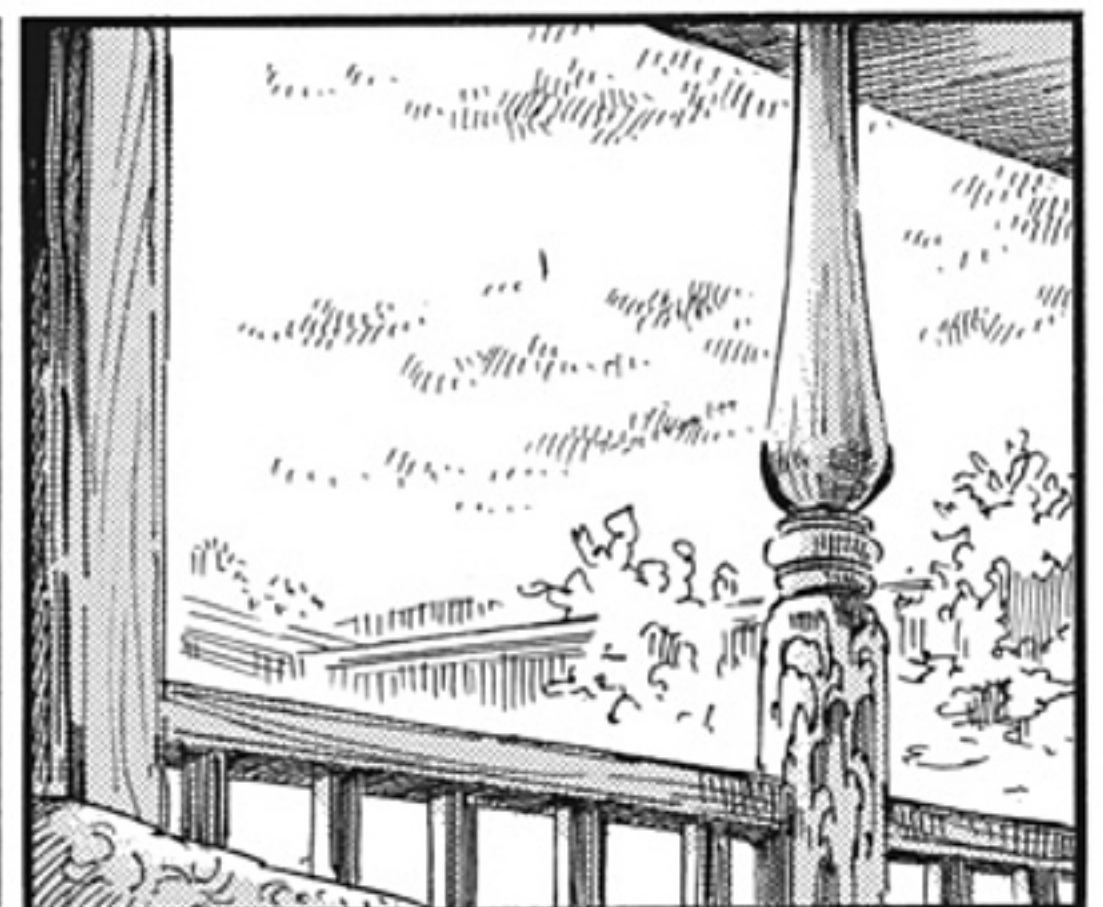
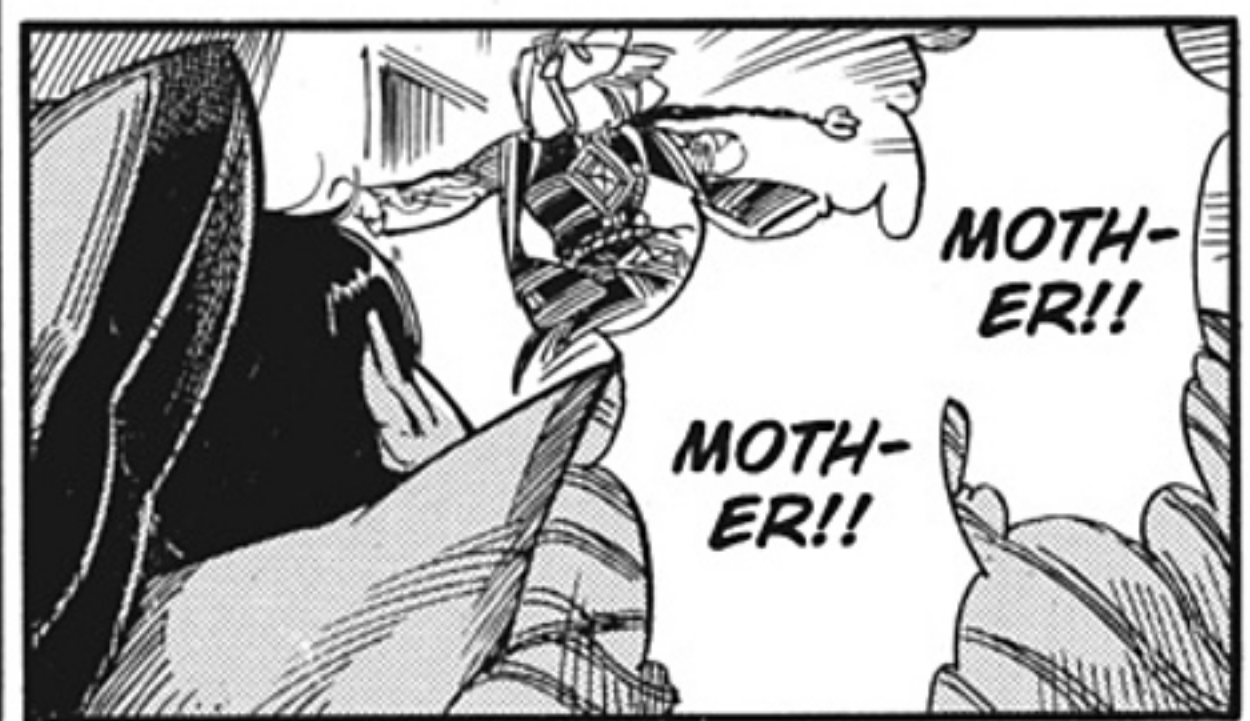


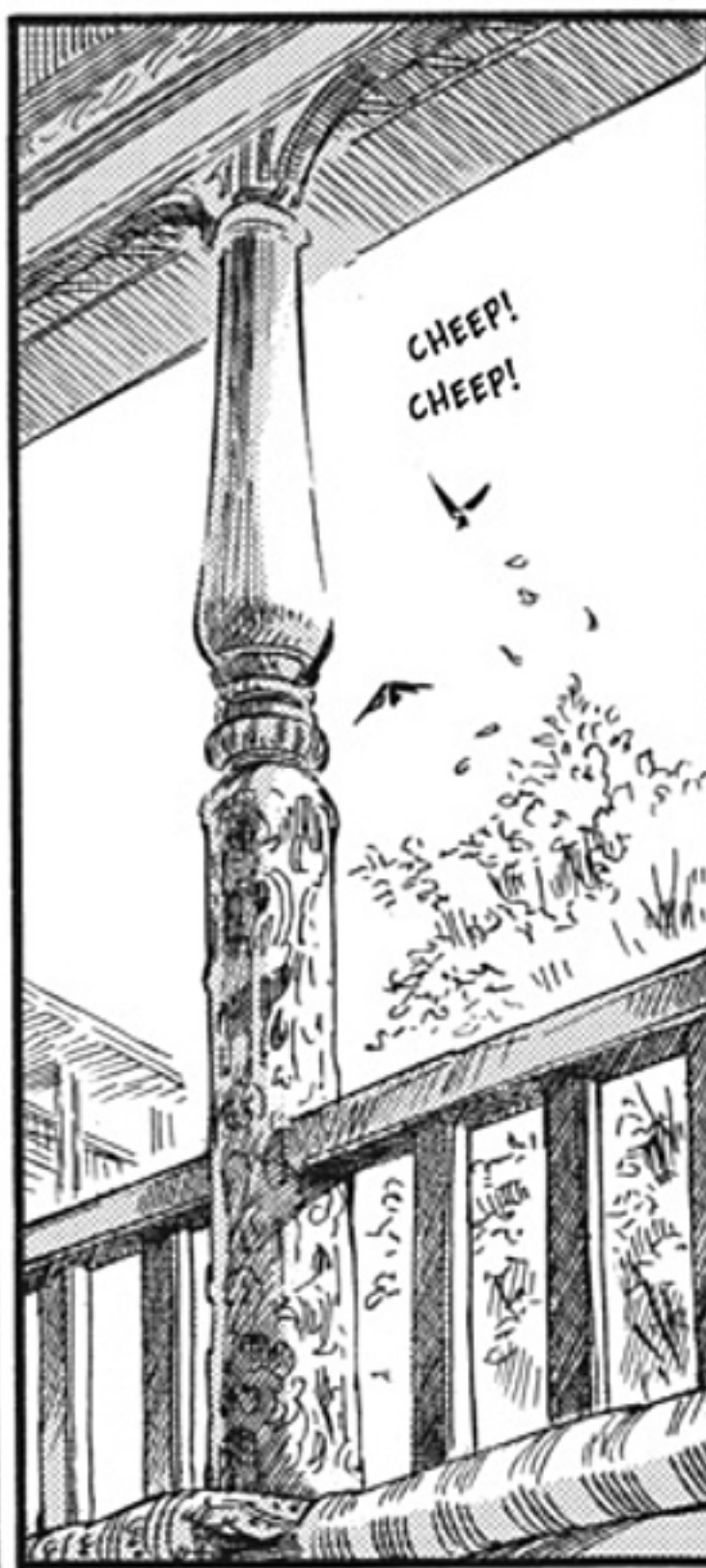
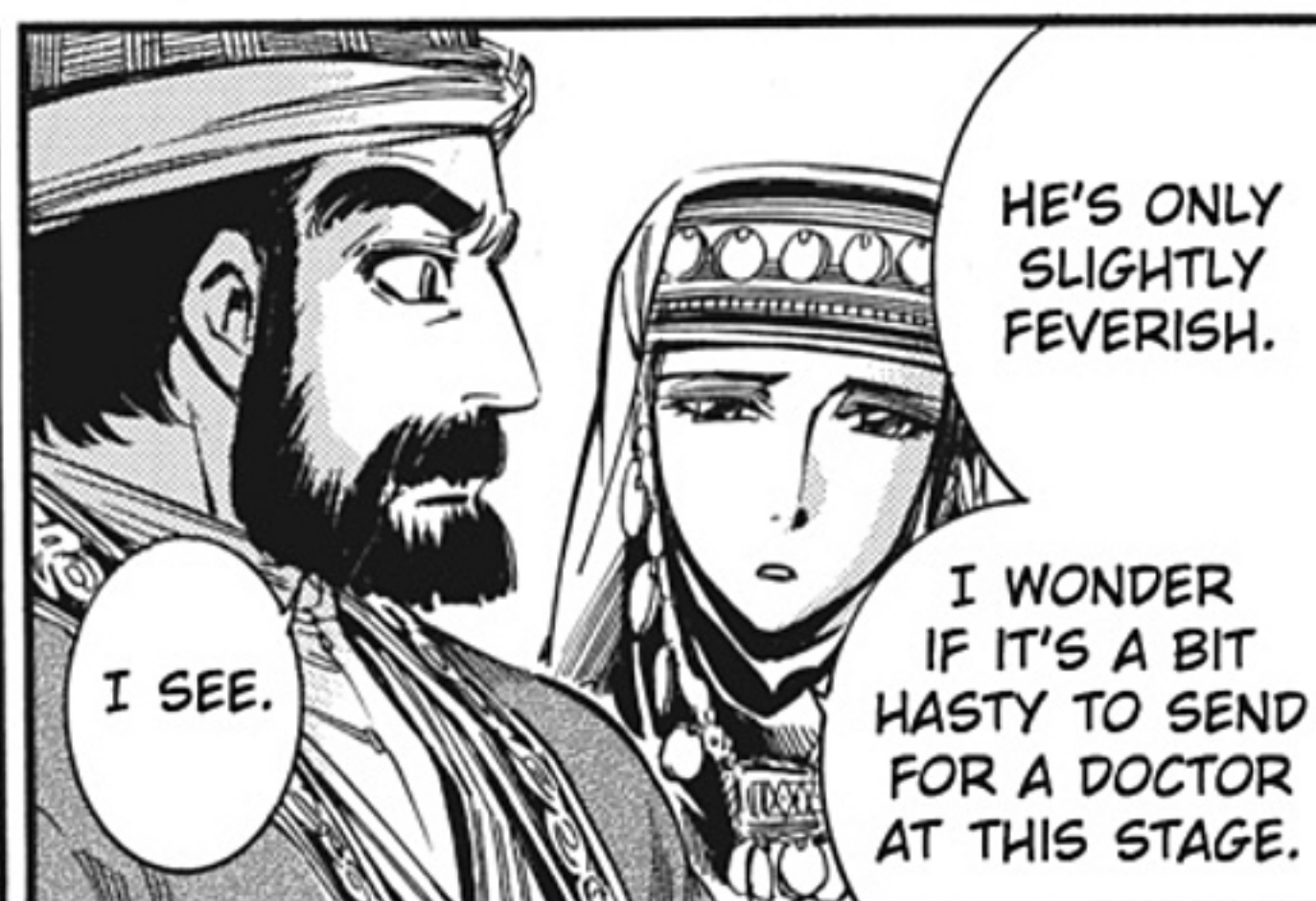


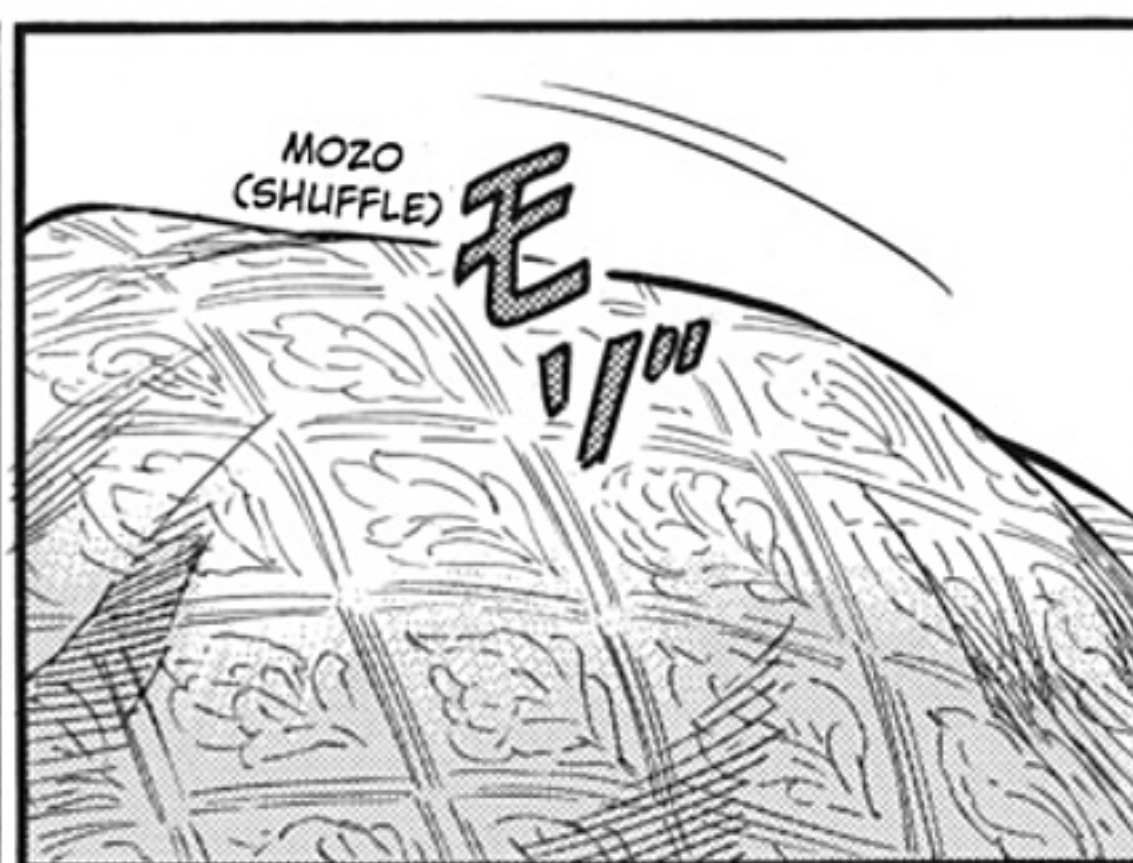
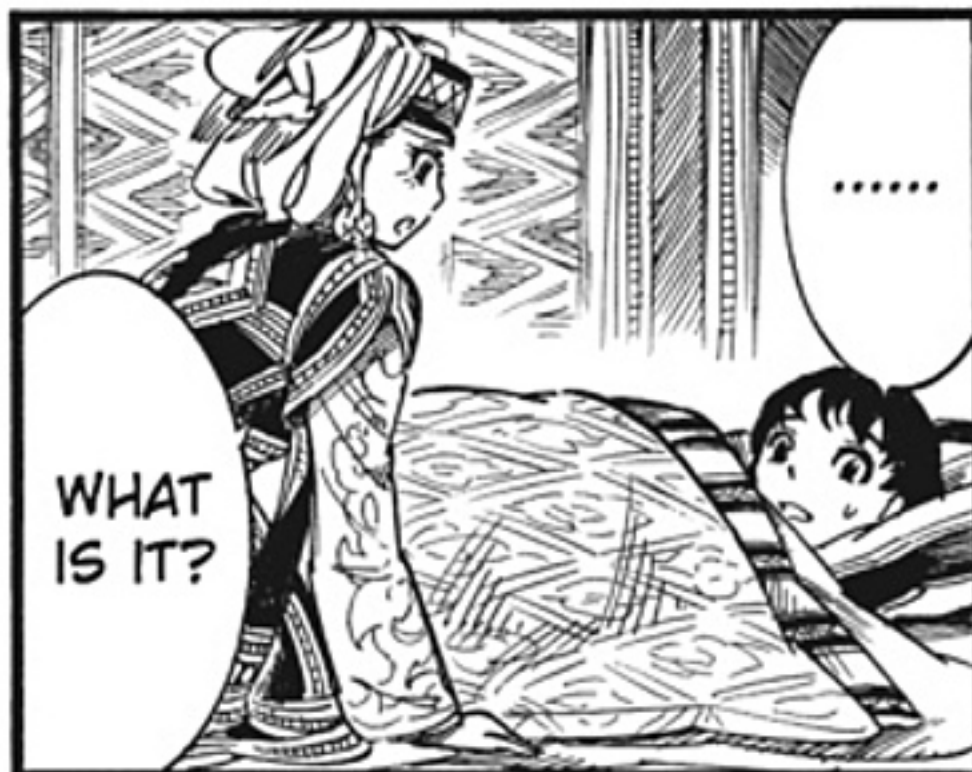


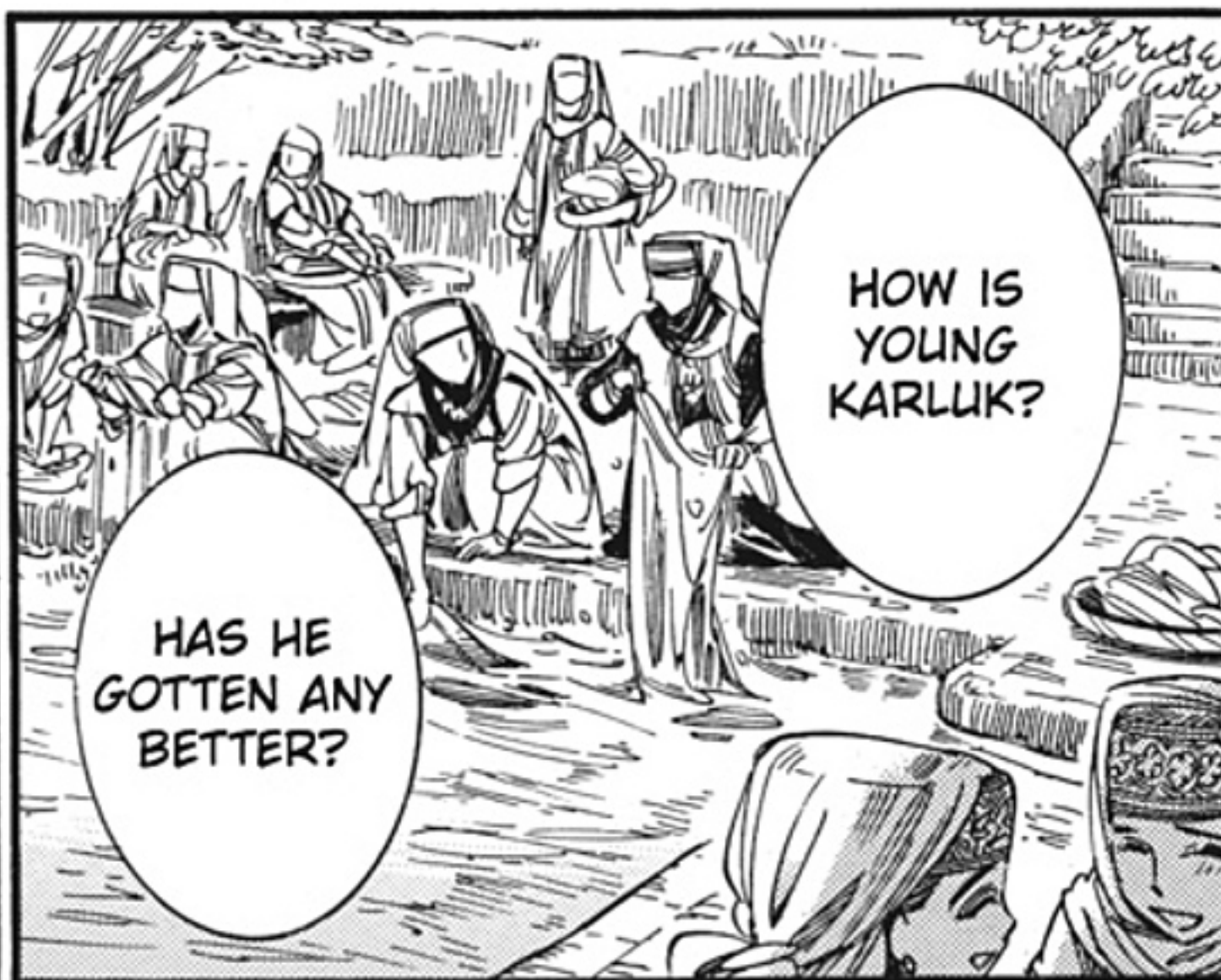


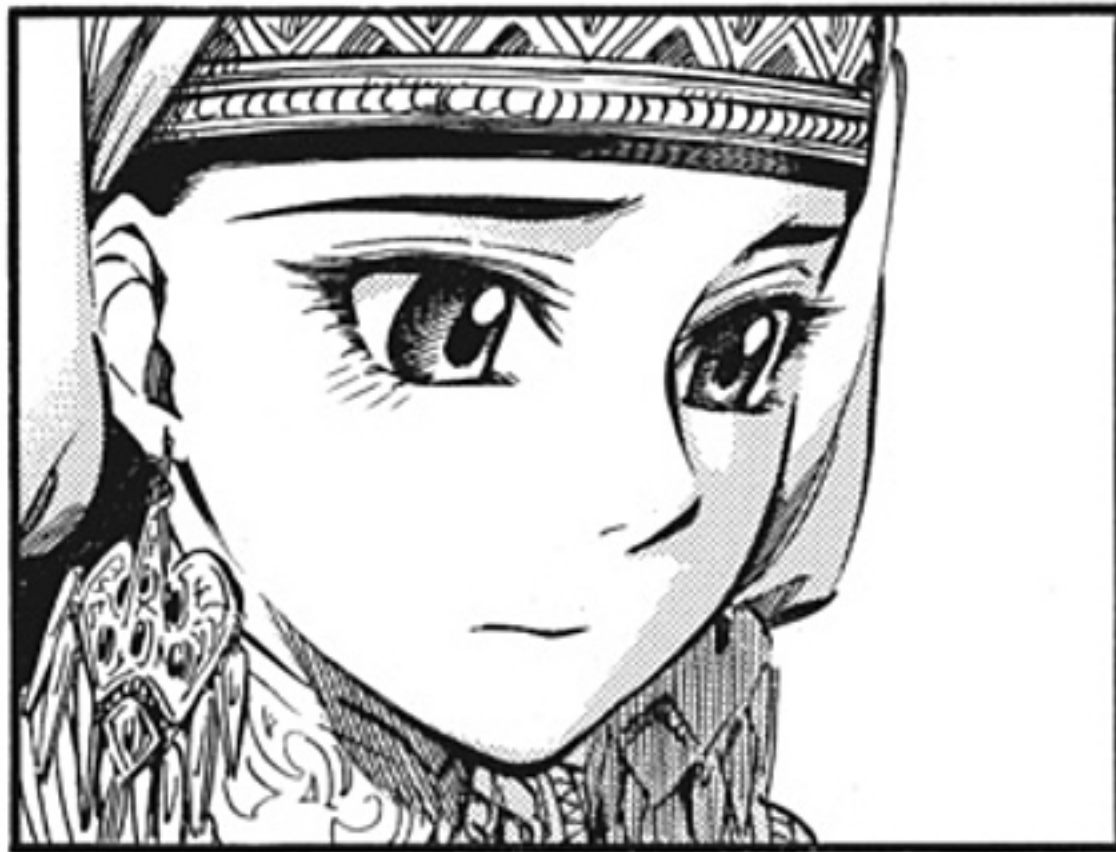














WELL?



AND HE CAN'T STOP COUGHING!

THAT'S TRUE.



IT IS A LITTLE WORRYING.

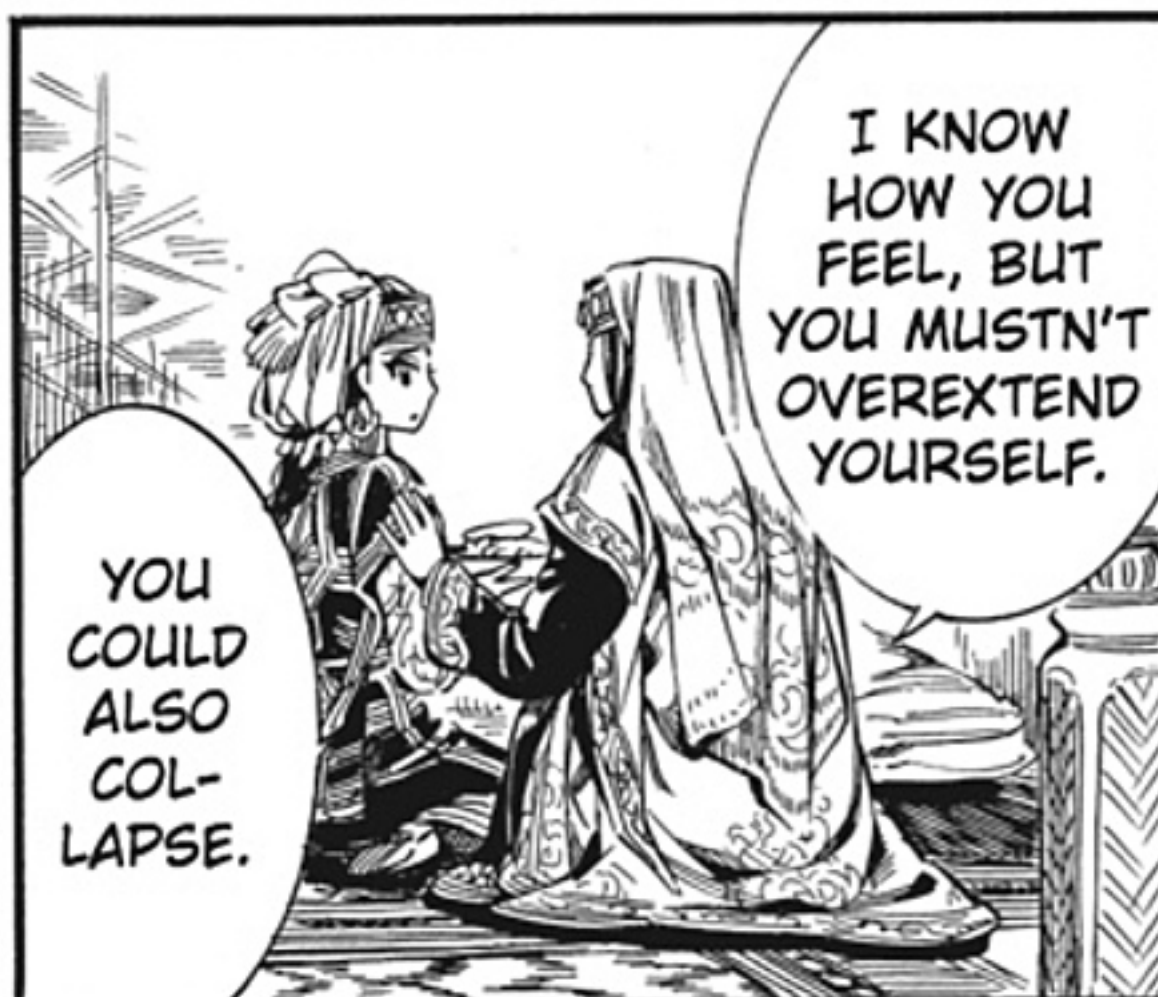
PERHAPS WE SHOULD CALL THE DOCTOR...



HIS FEVER ...

IT SEEMS EVEN WORSE!

I SEE...



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT YOU MUSTN'T OVEREXTEND YOURSELF.

YOU COULD ALSO COLLAPSE.

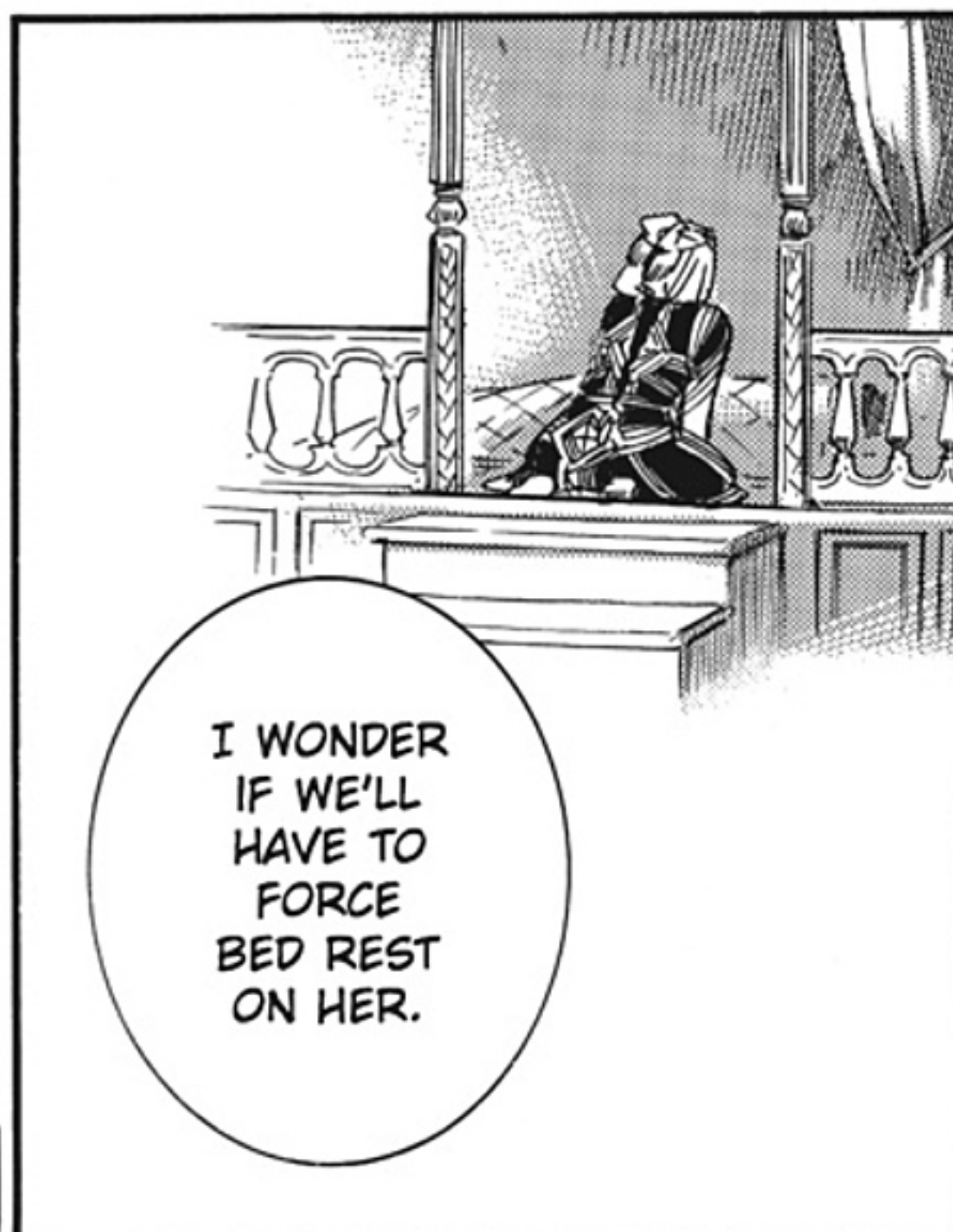
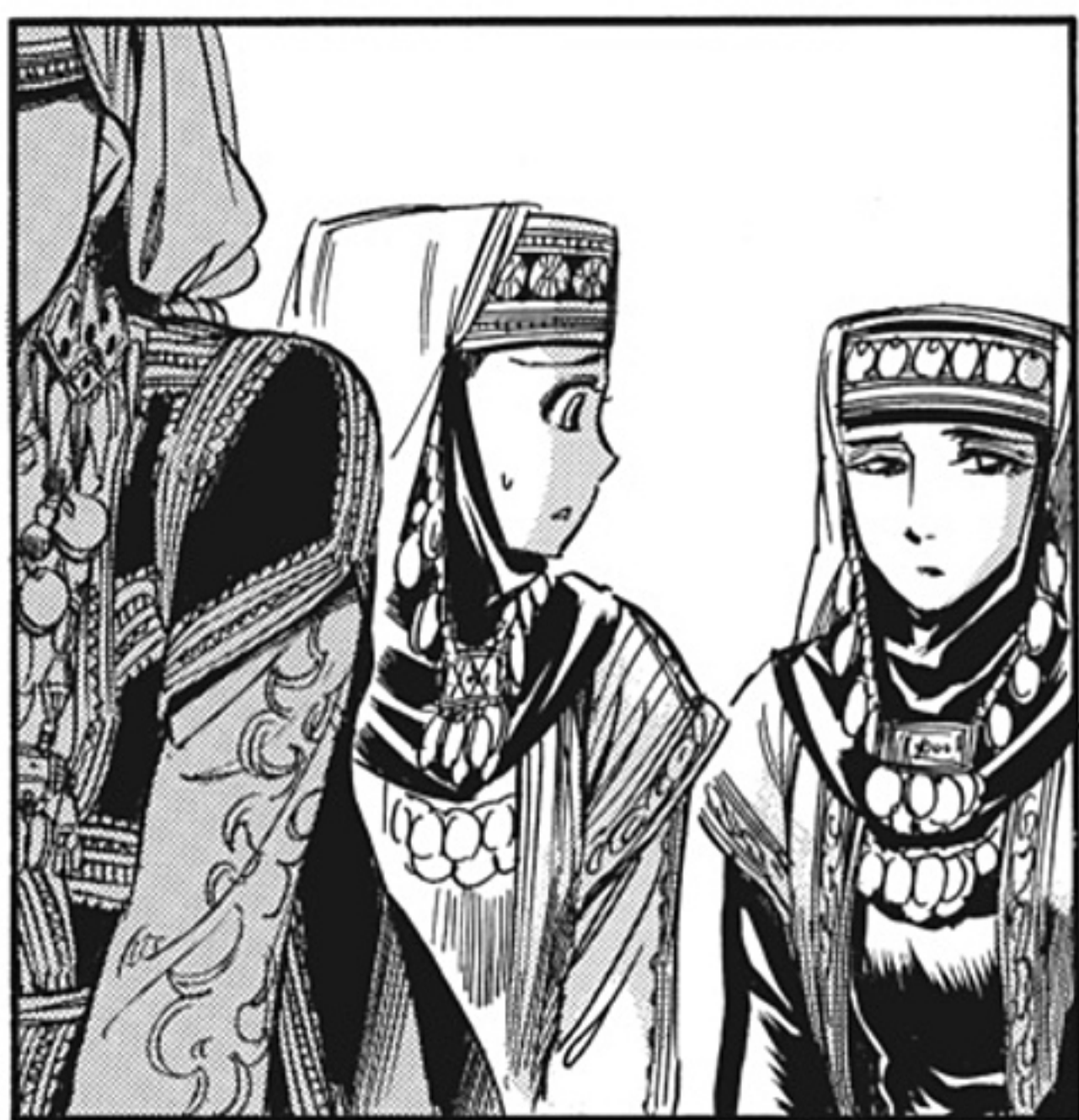
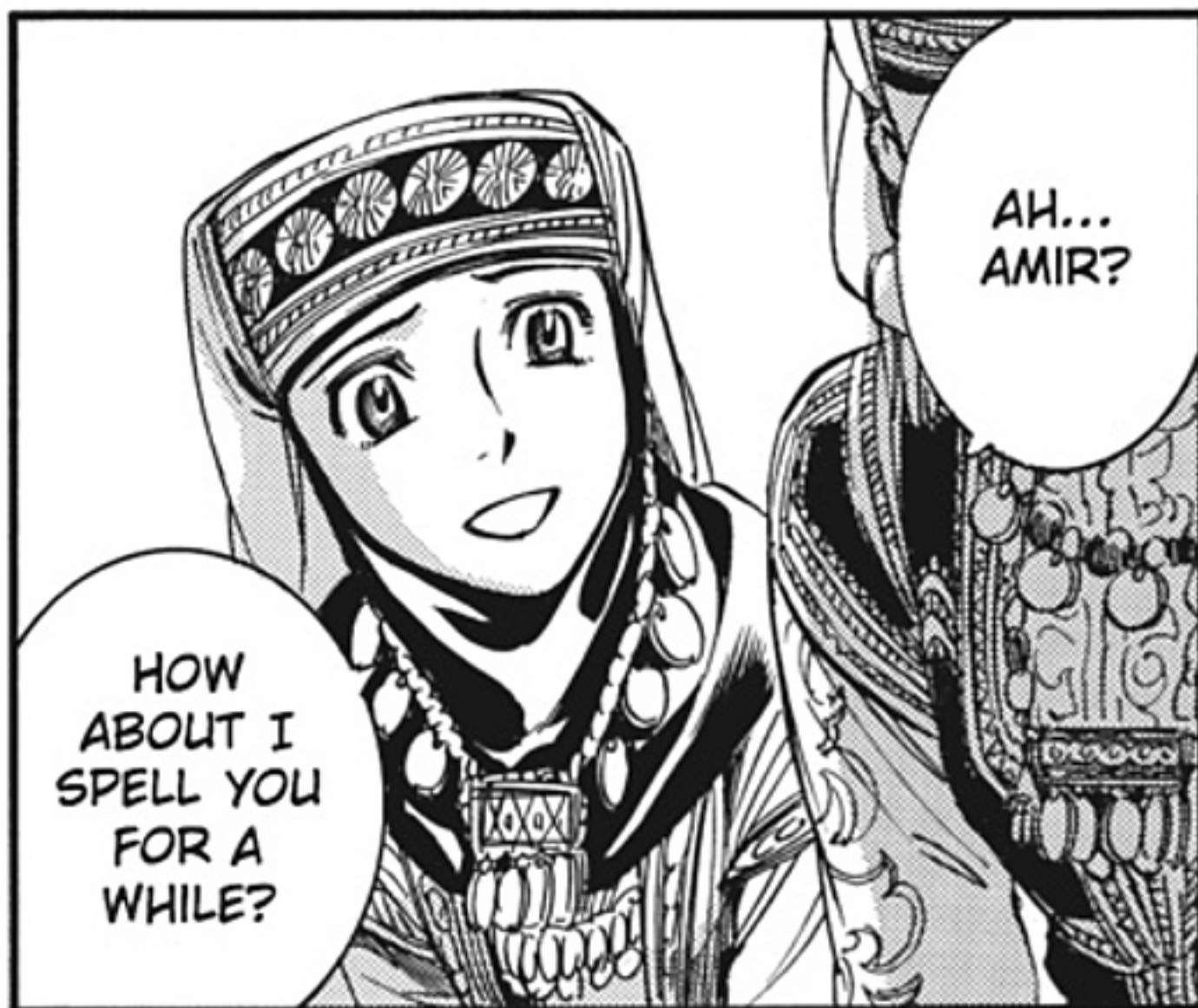


AMIR, HERE'S YOUR DINNER.

YOU LEFT BEFORE YOU FINISHED.



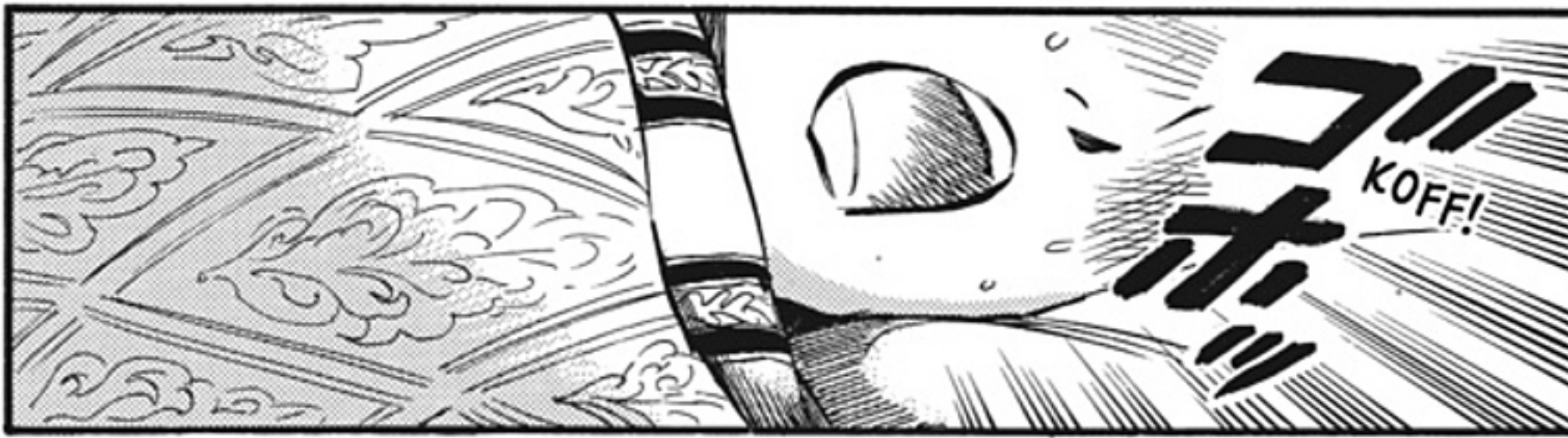


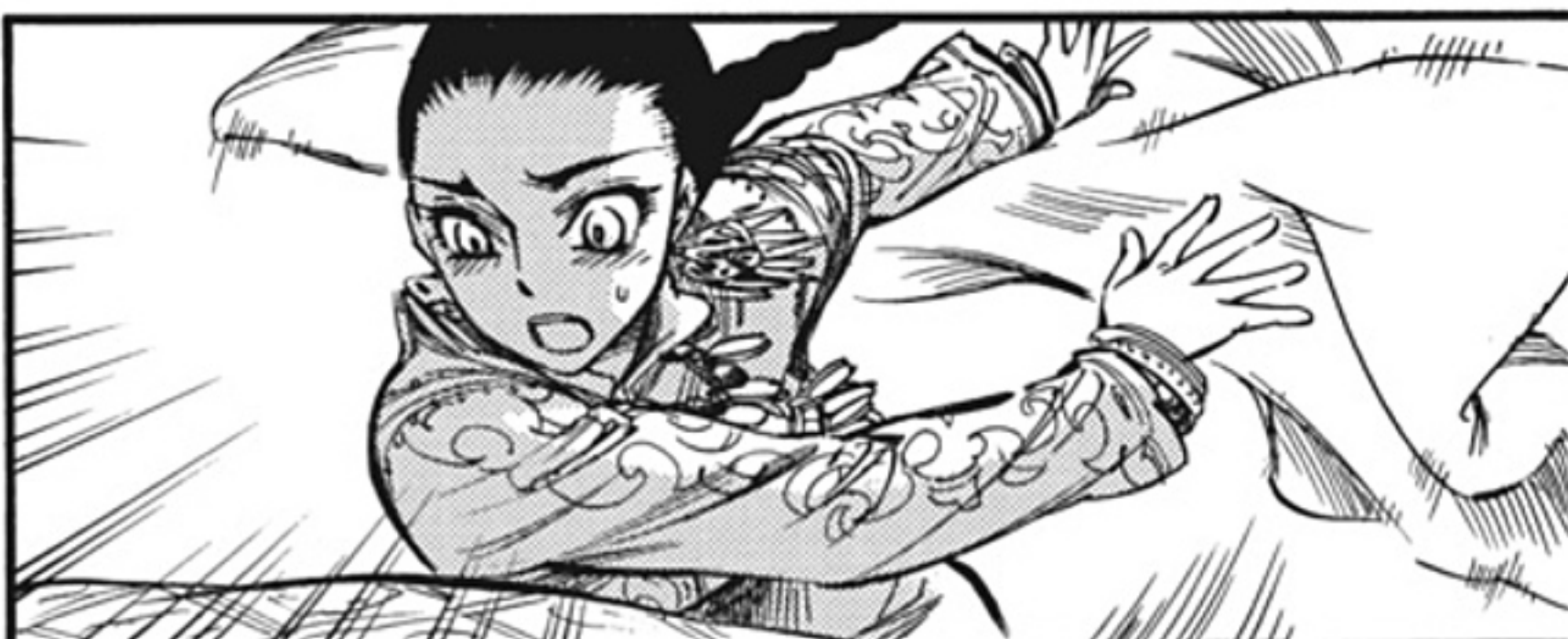


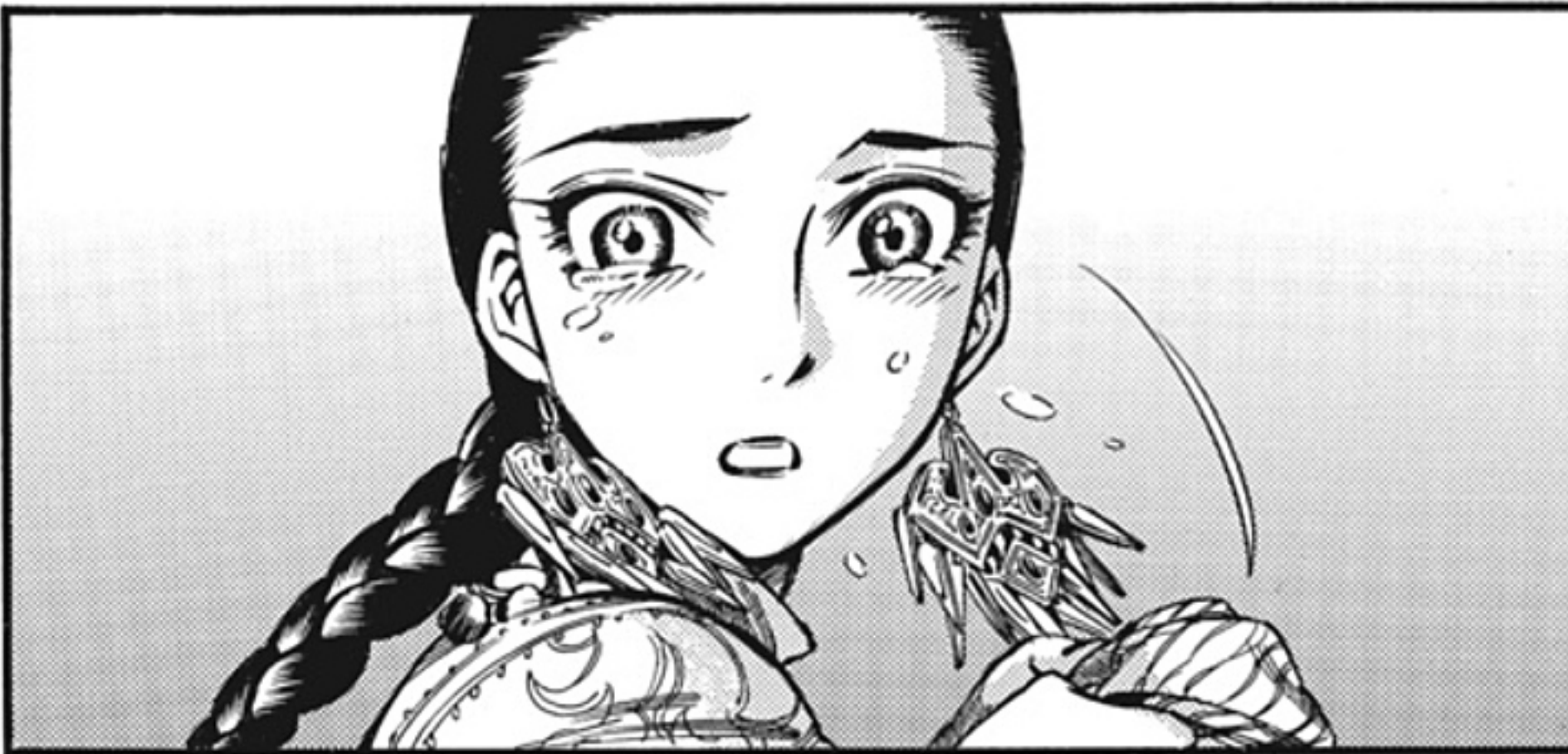


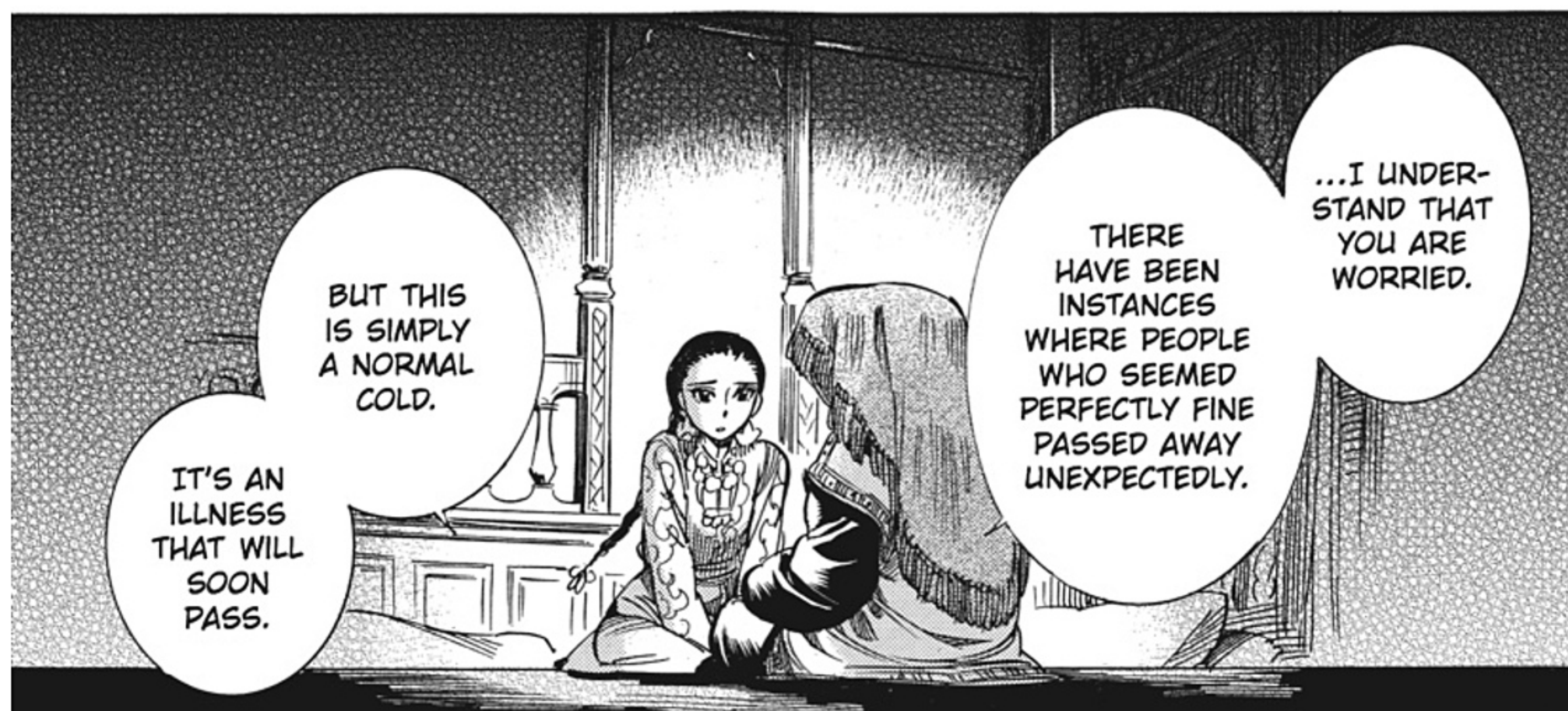
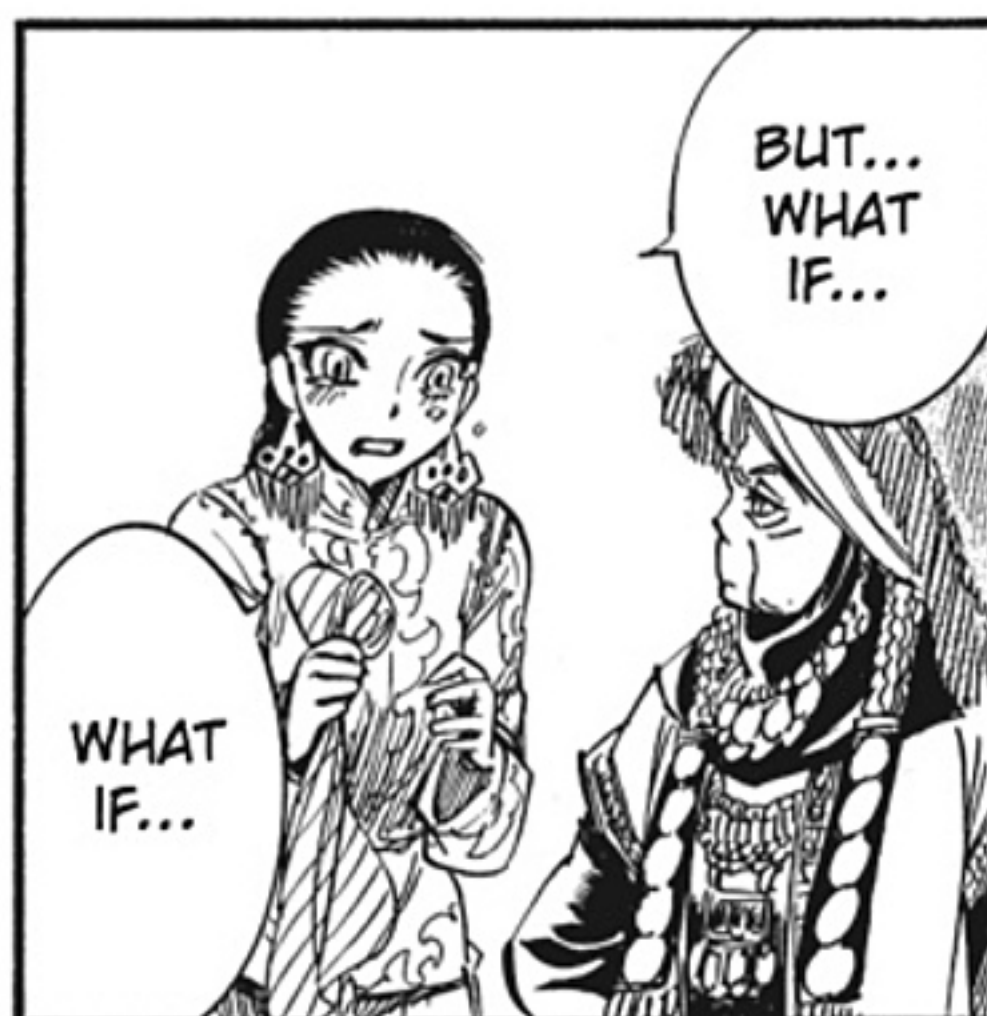
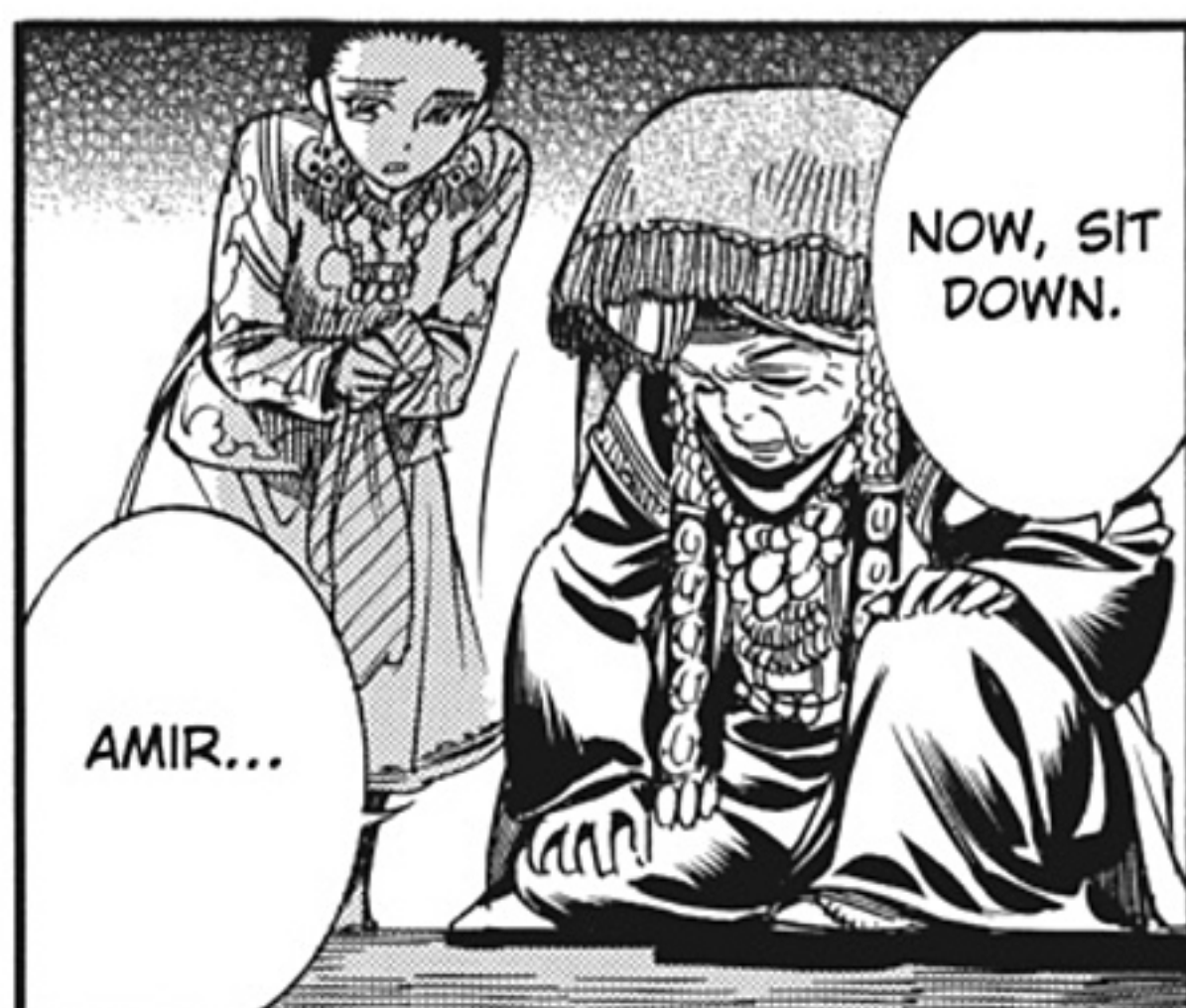
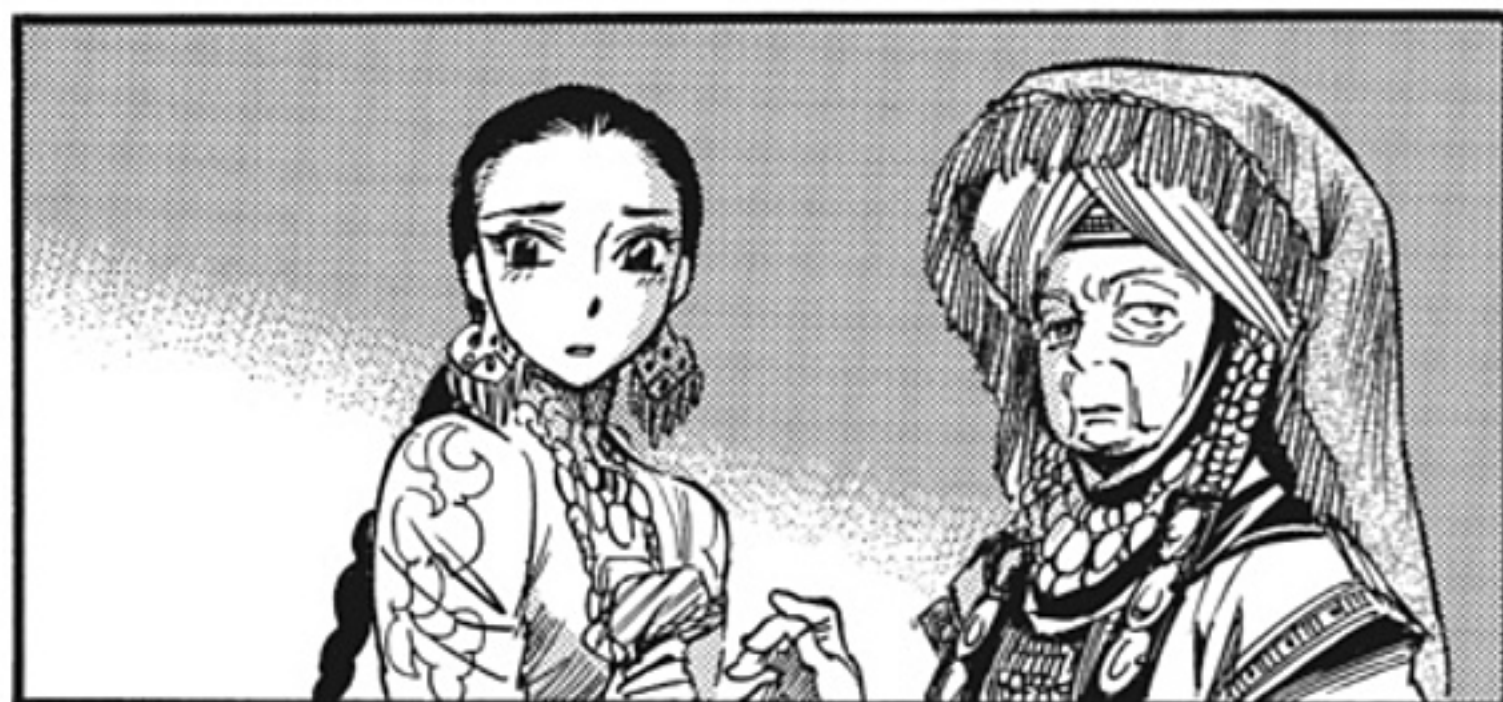
I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D BE WORRIED, NOT SO MUCH FOR KARLUK, BUT FOR AMIR.

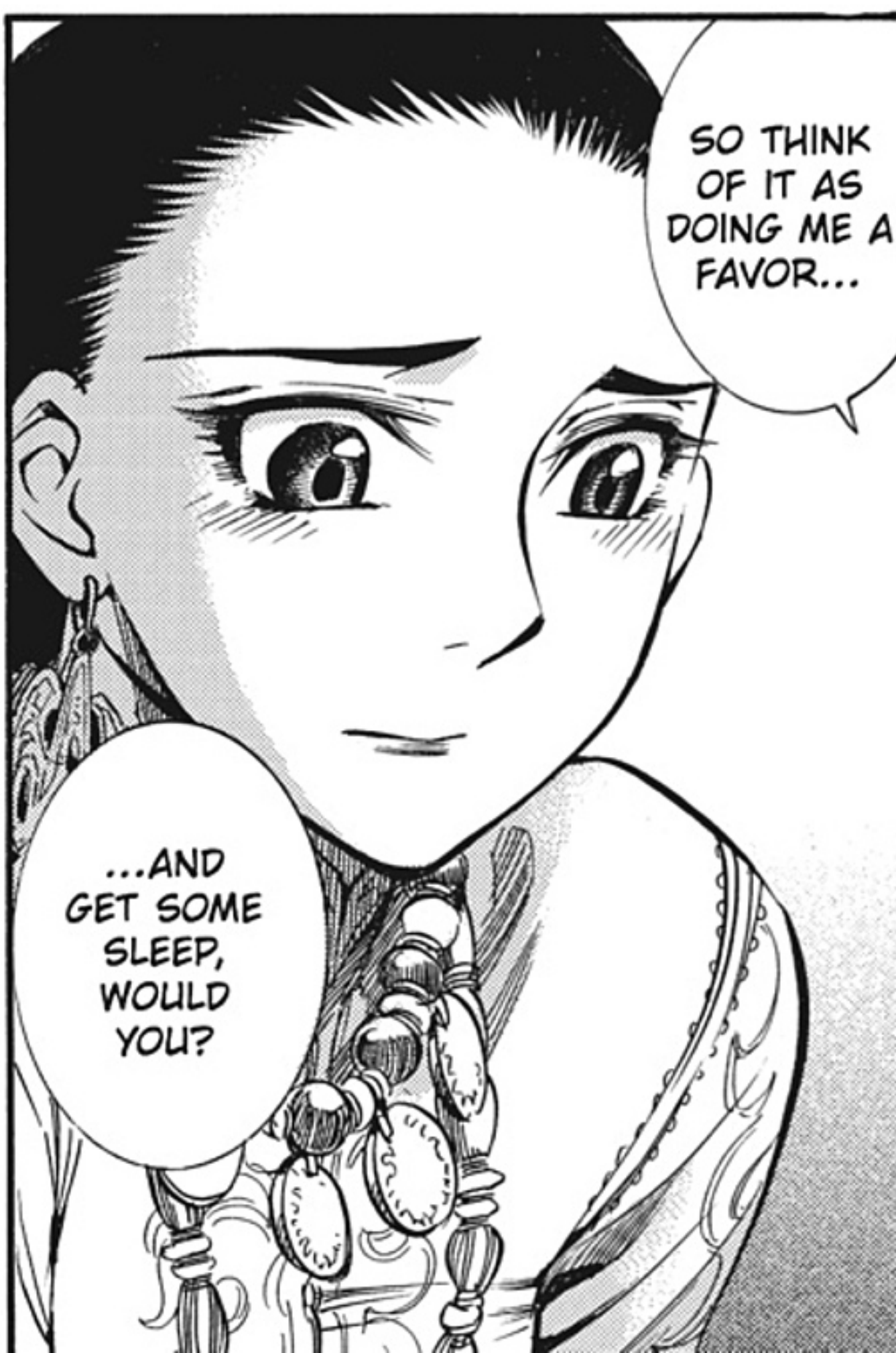
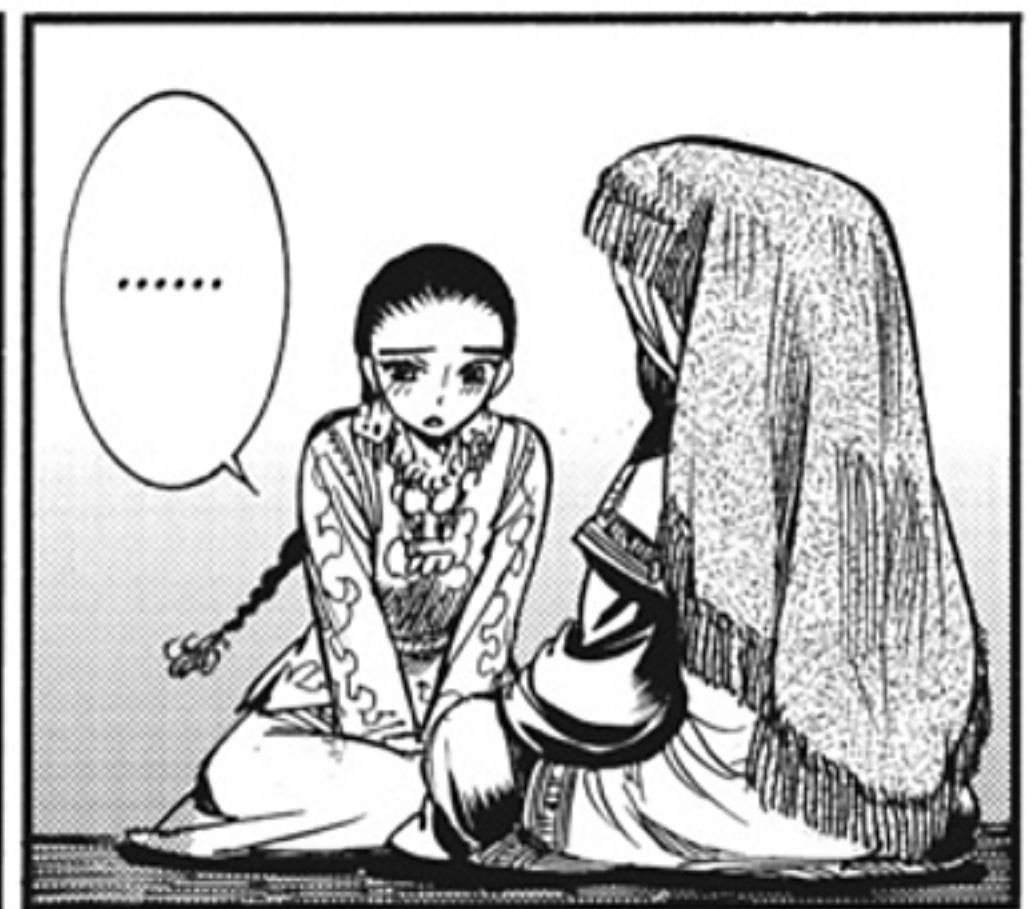
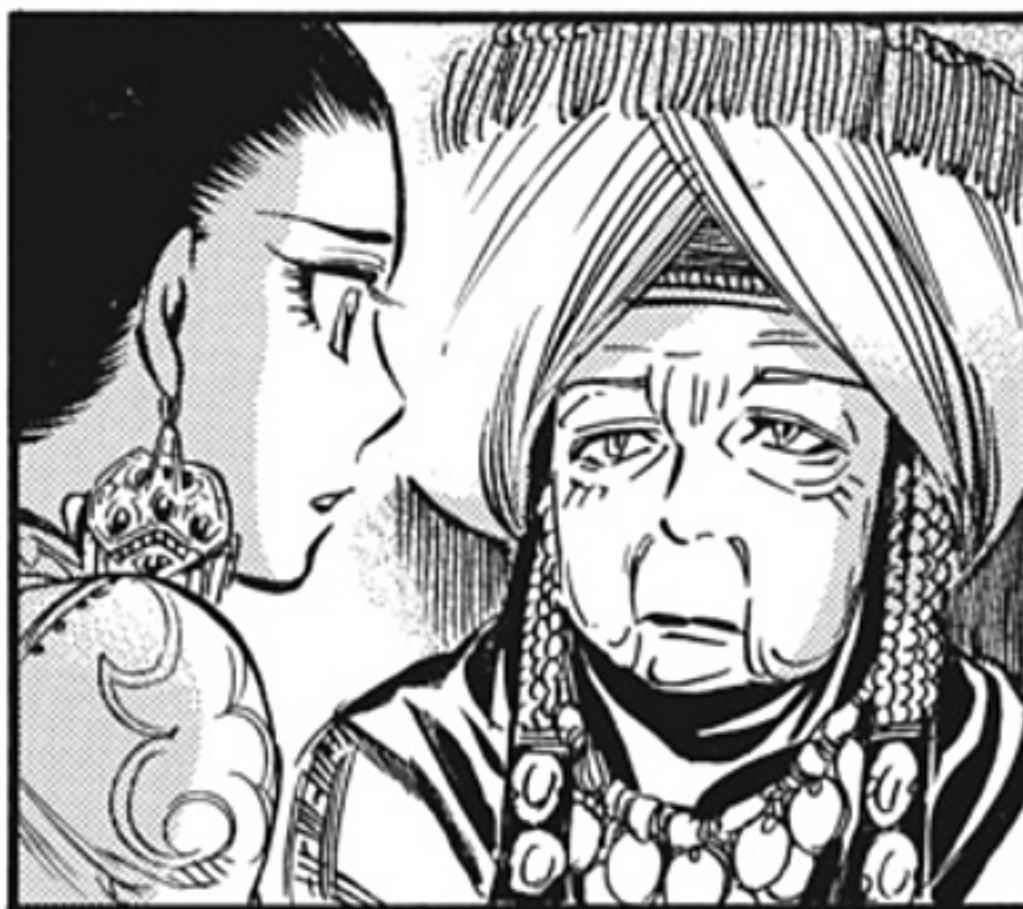
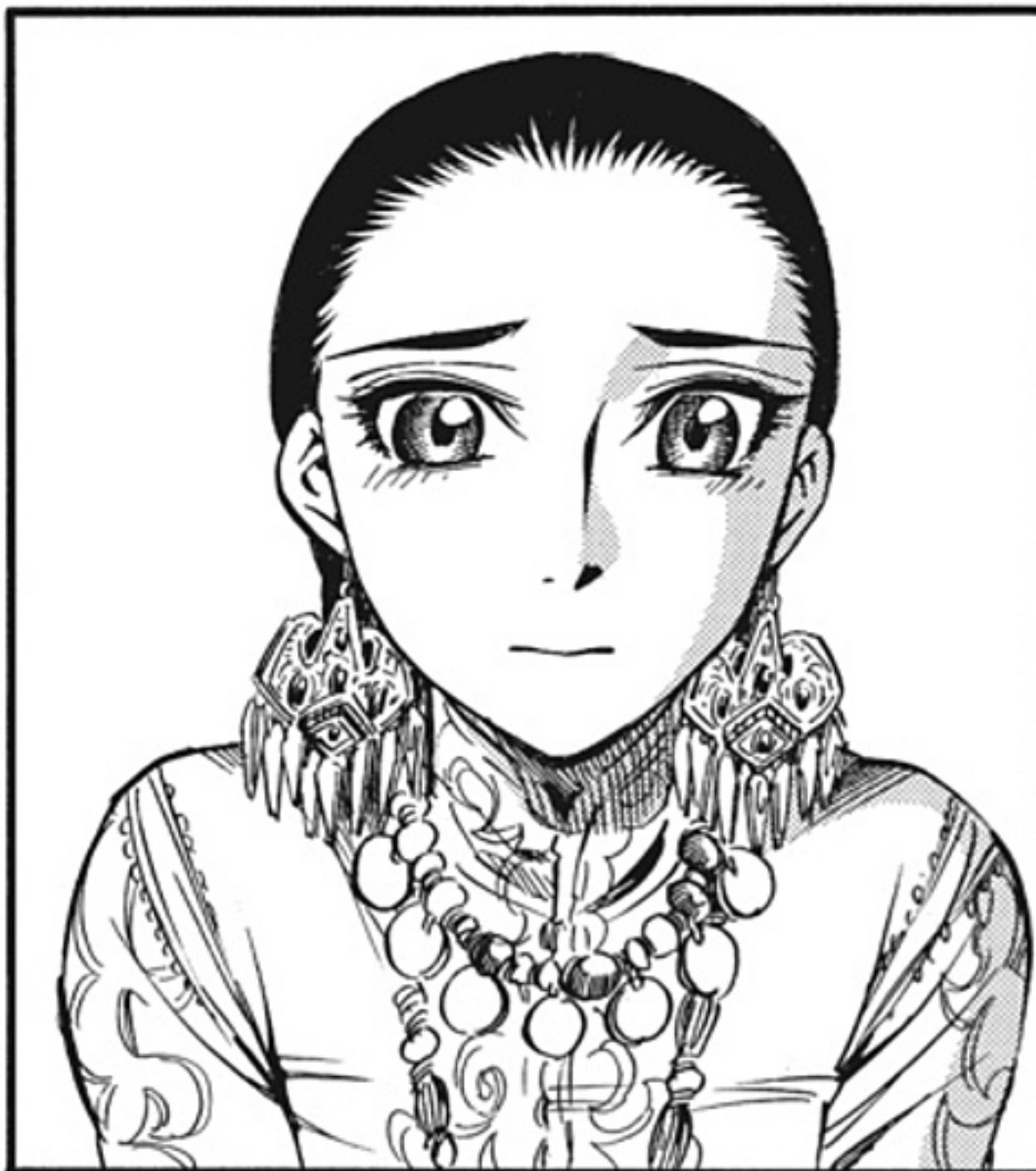


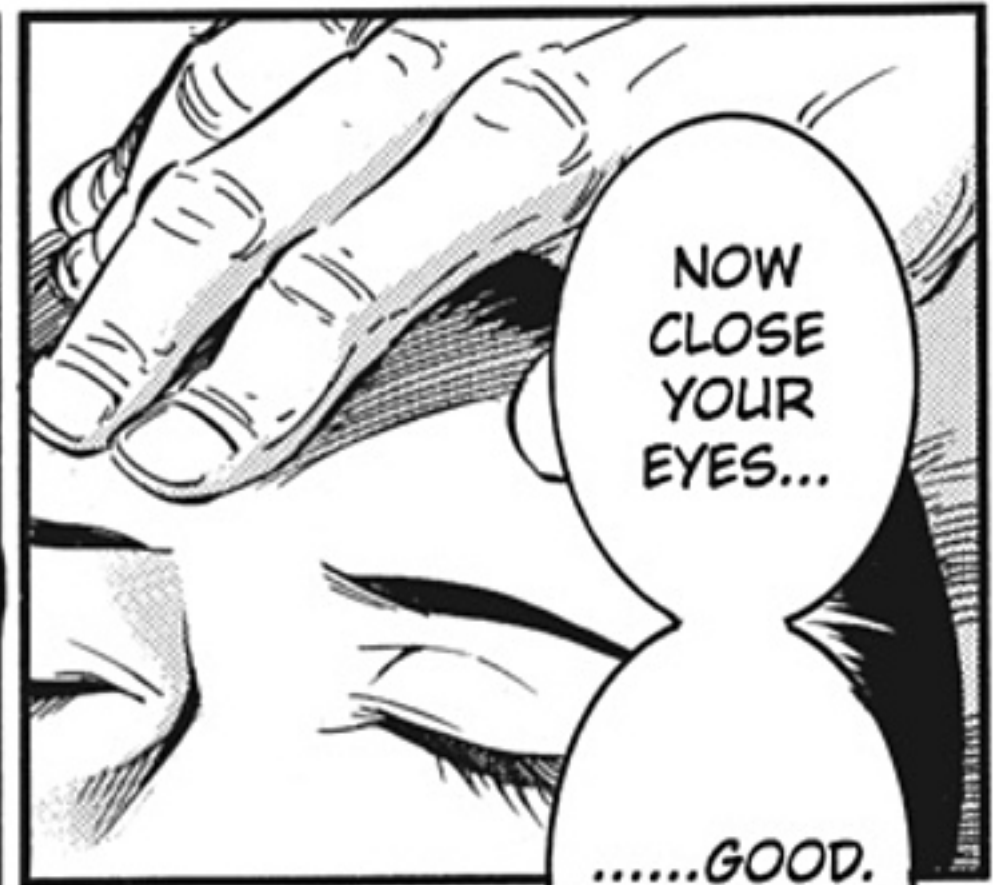


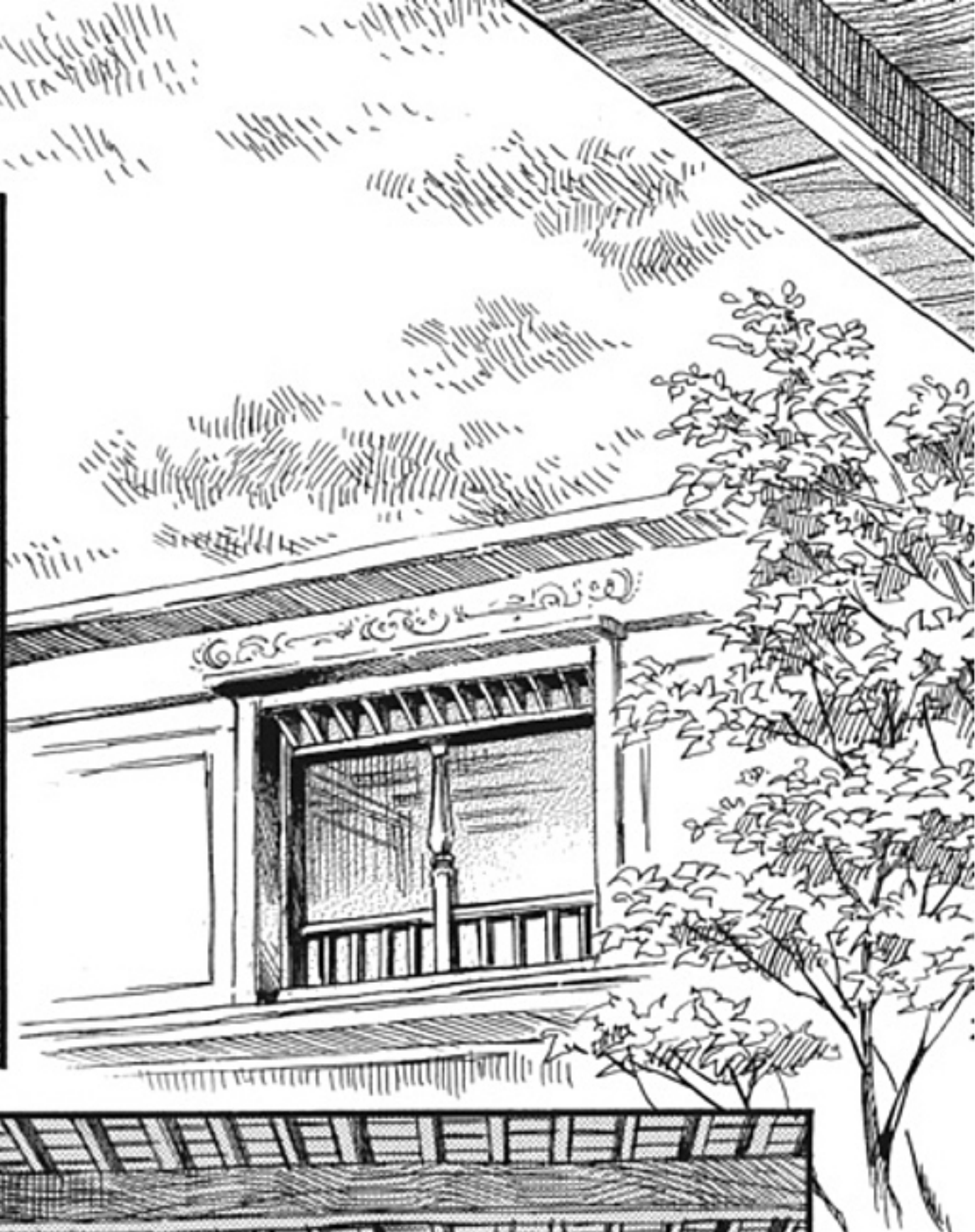


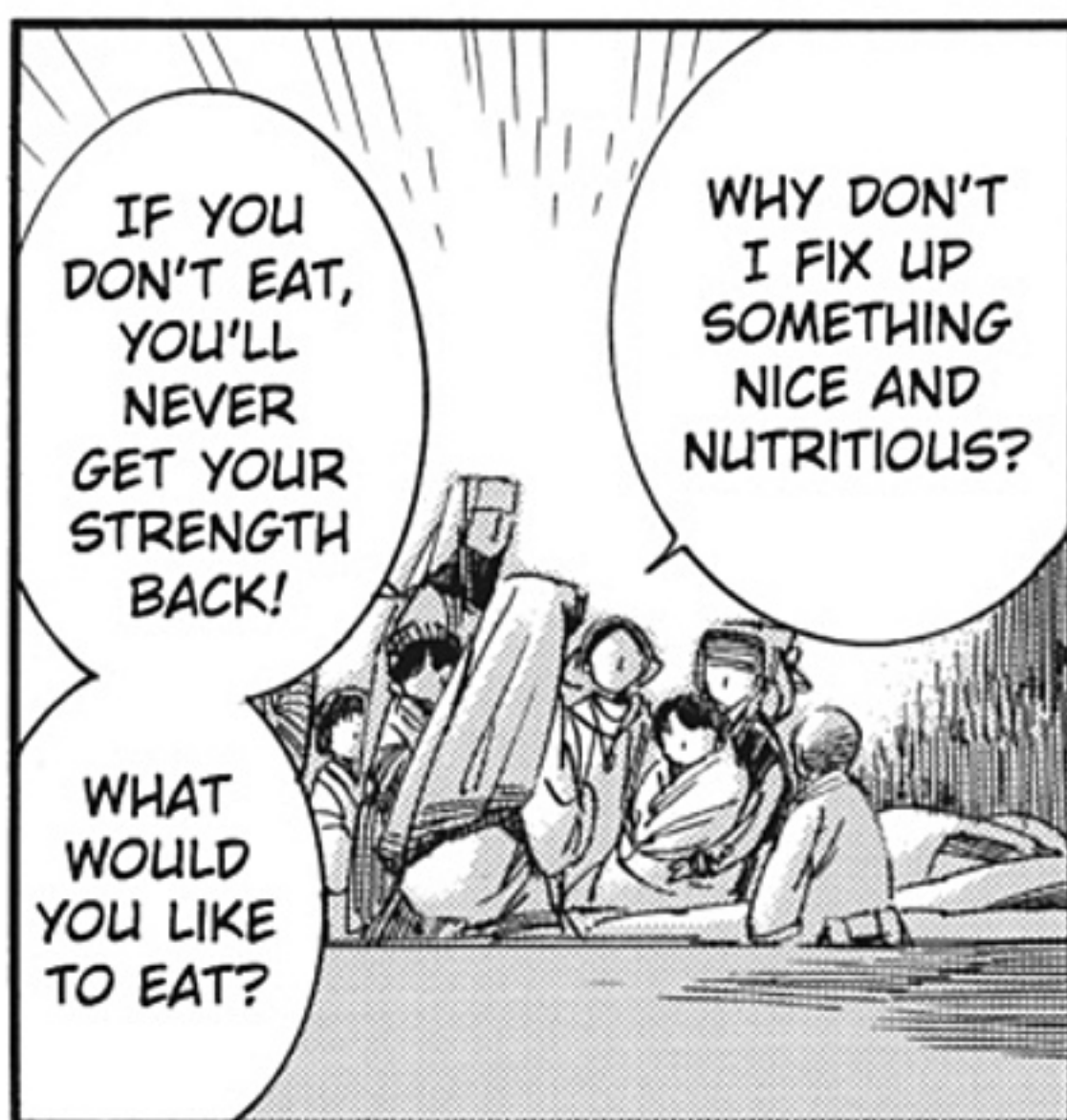
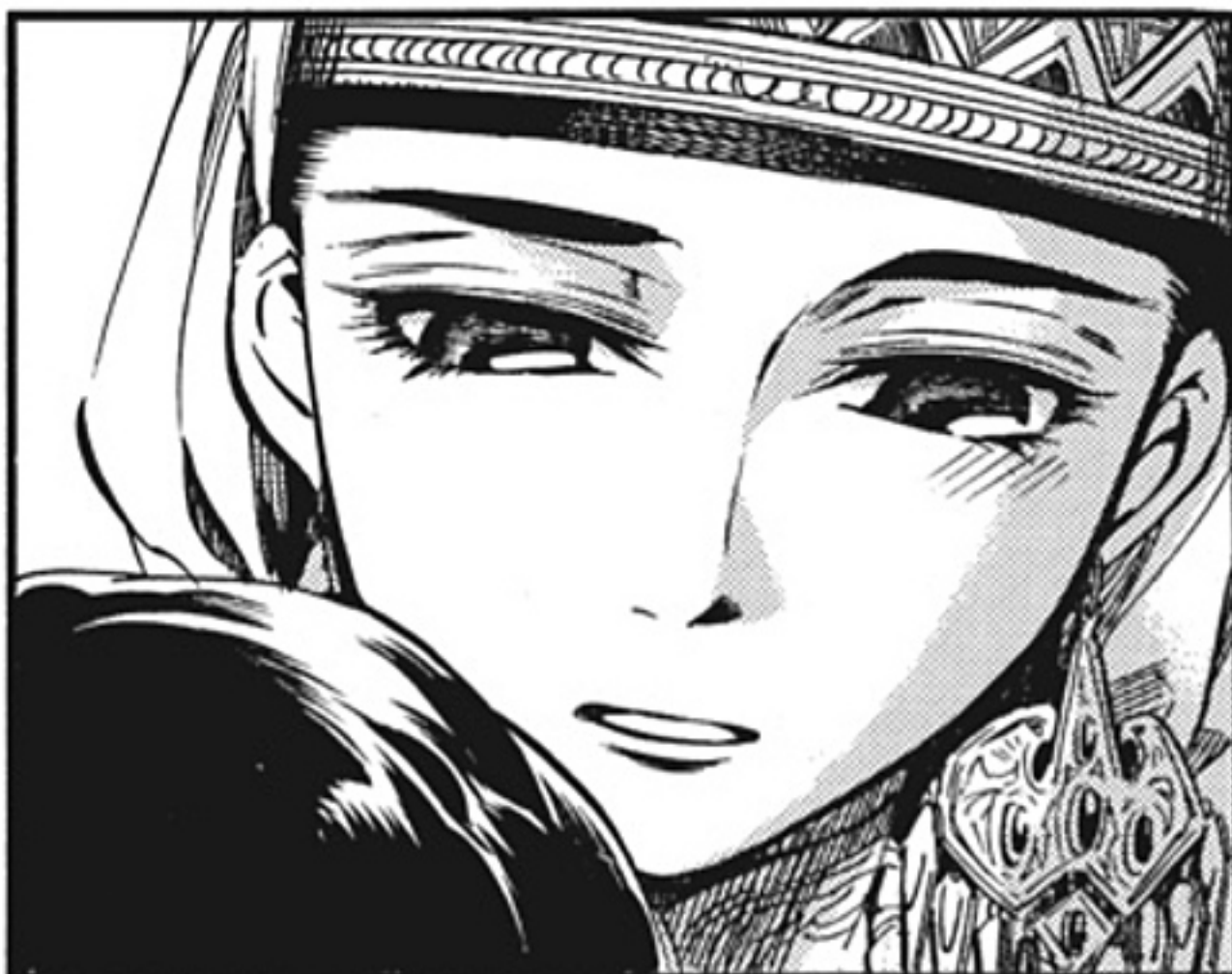
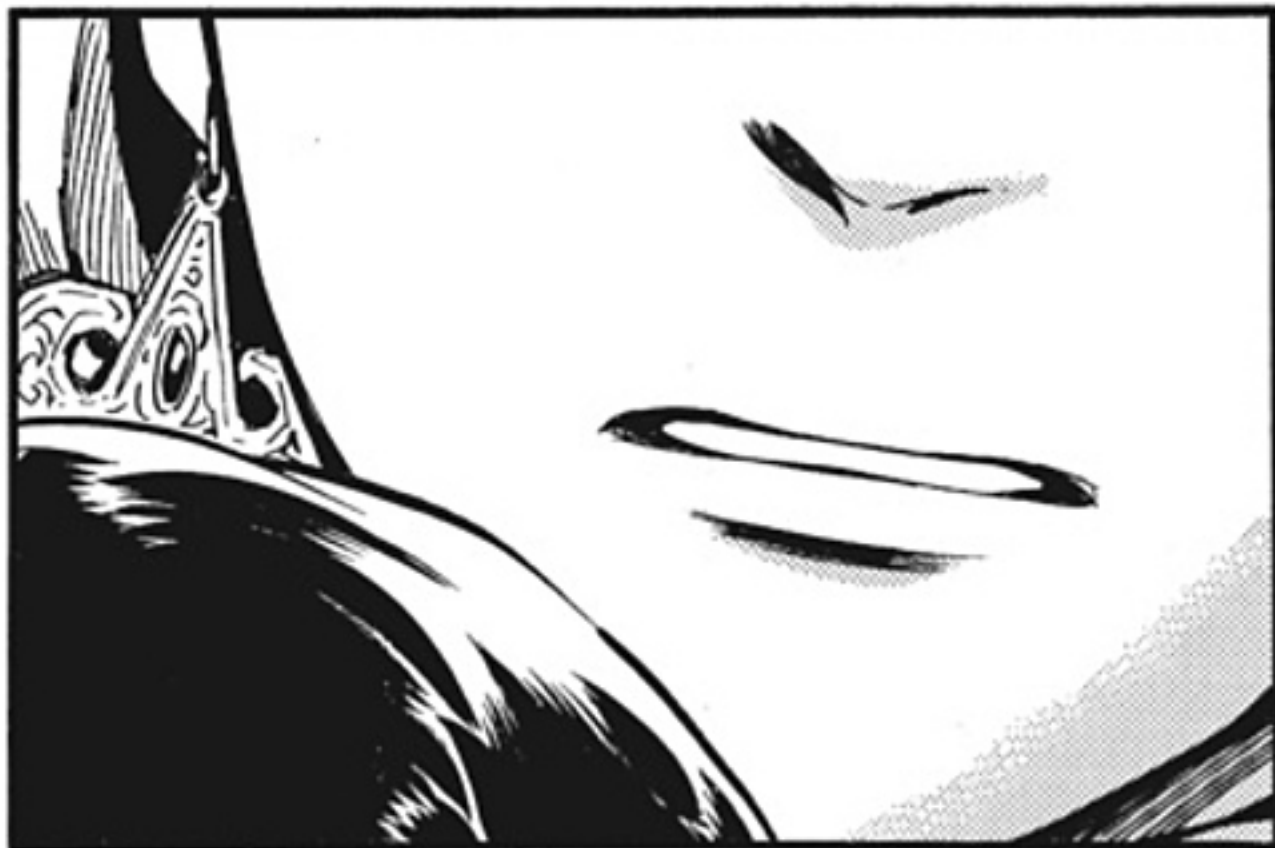












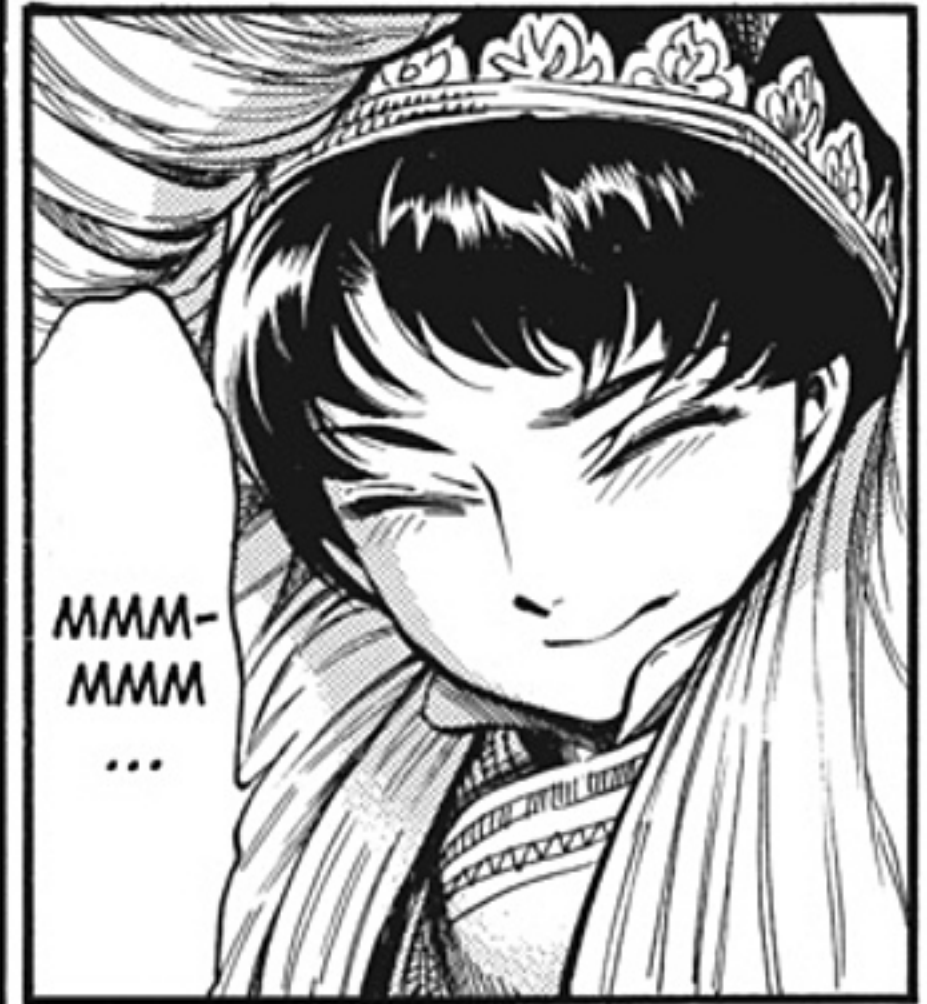


AHH...

OUTSIDE
AFTER SO
LONG.



MM...



MMM-
MMM
...



I'M SORRY,
ARAKRA!
I'VE BEEN
NEGLECTING
YOU, EH?

HA
HA
HA!



STOP
IT—

AH! HEY!
ARAKRA!

...AH...



AH...

...
CHOO
!!



HE WAS
PRETTY
LONELY!

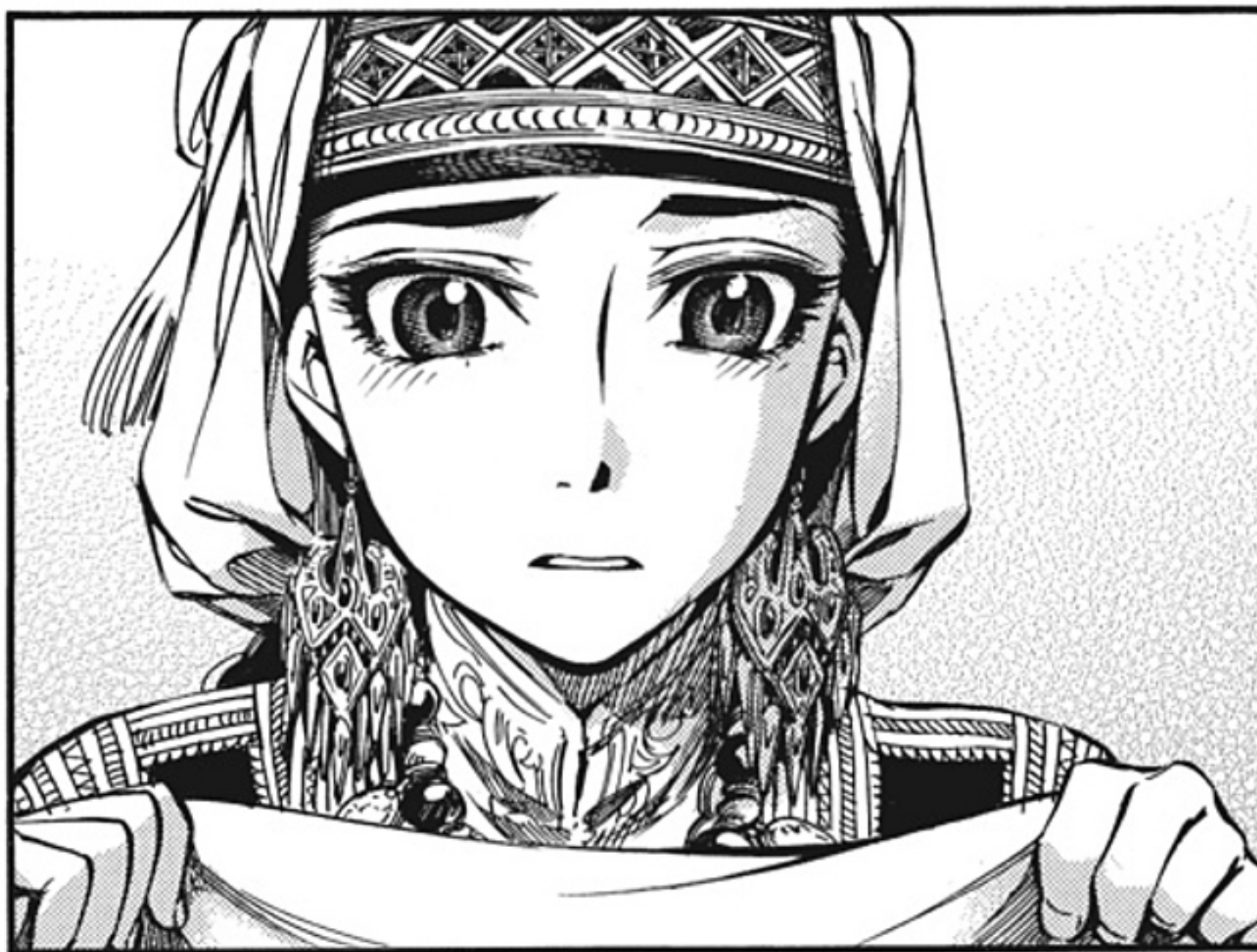
AND HE
DIDN'T
SEEM TO
LIKE THE
WAY I
TENDED
HIM.

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH.



BURURURU
(SNORT)

7
IL
IL
IL
...





AFTERWORD





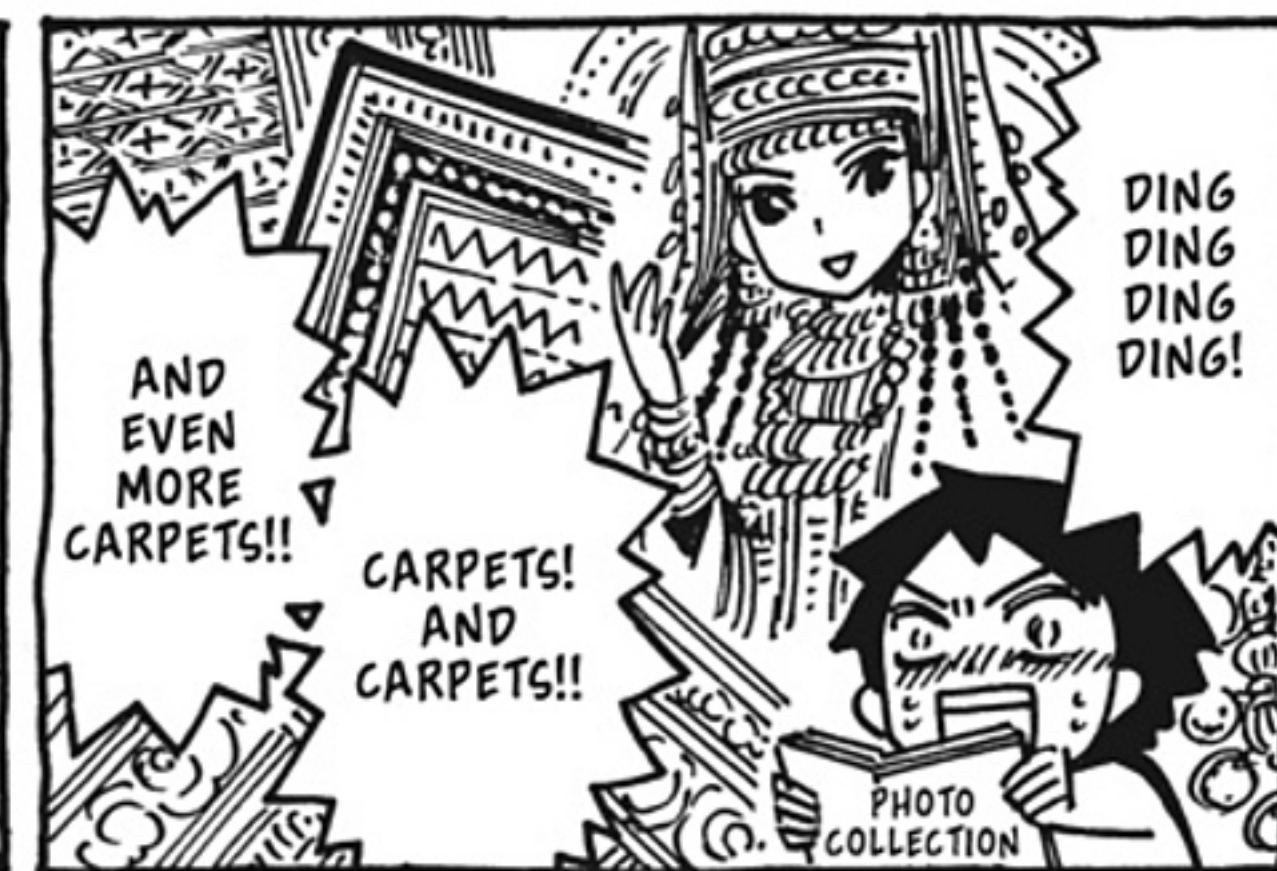
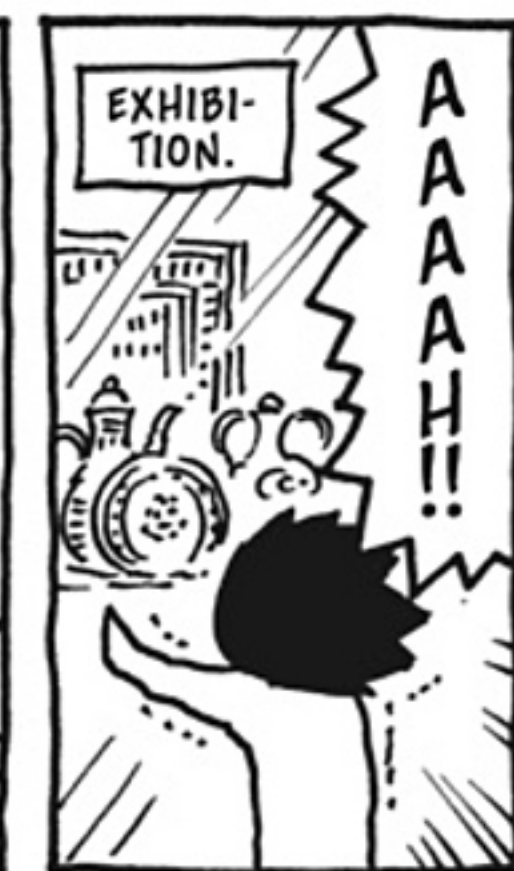
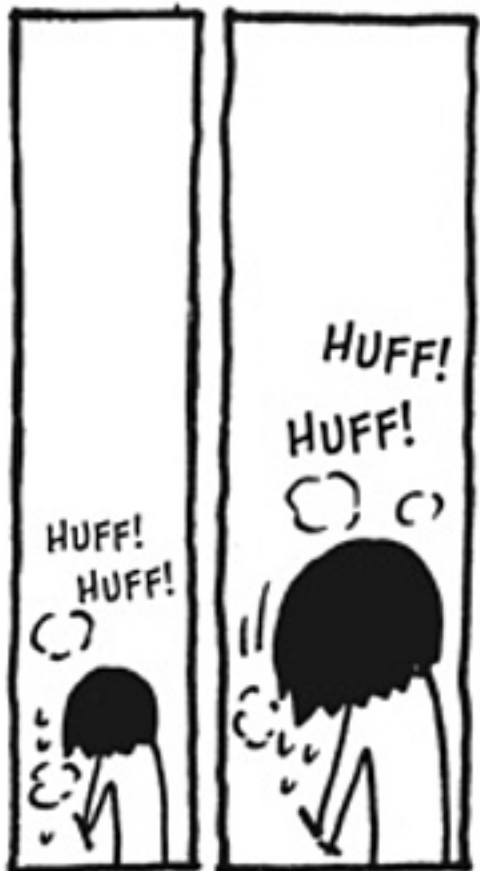
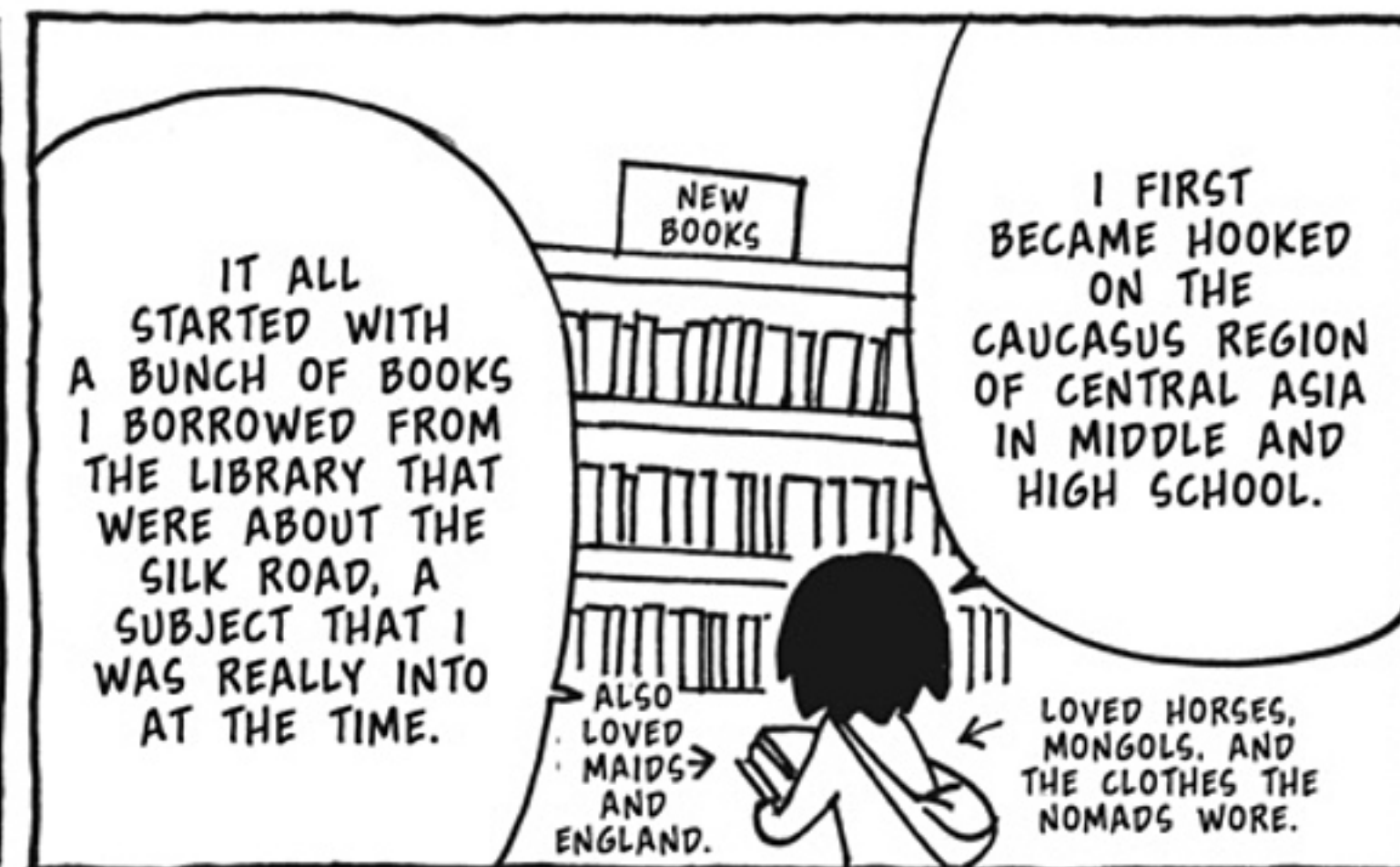
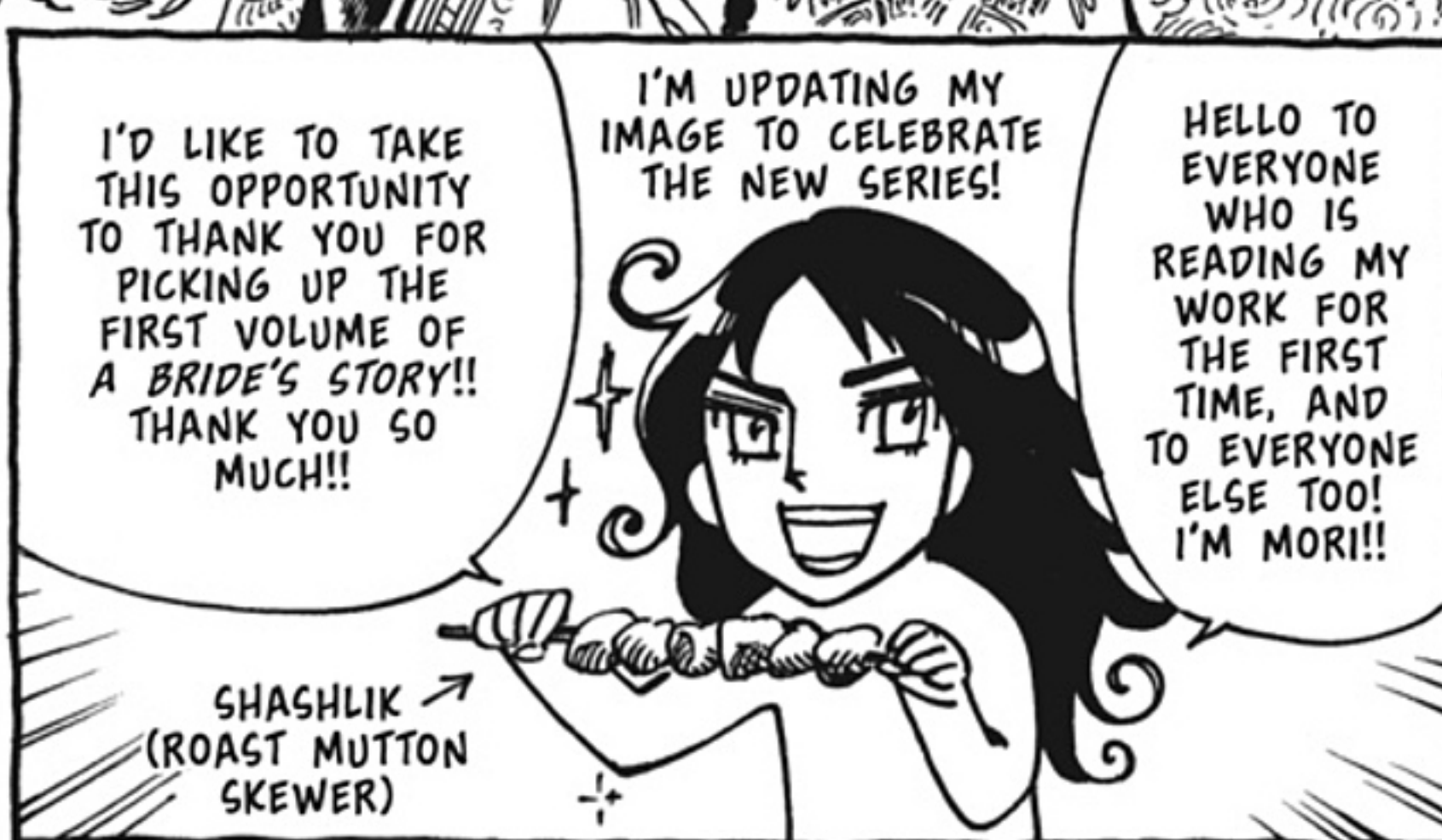
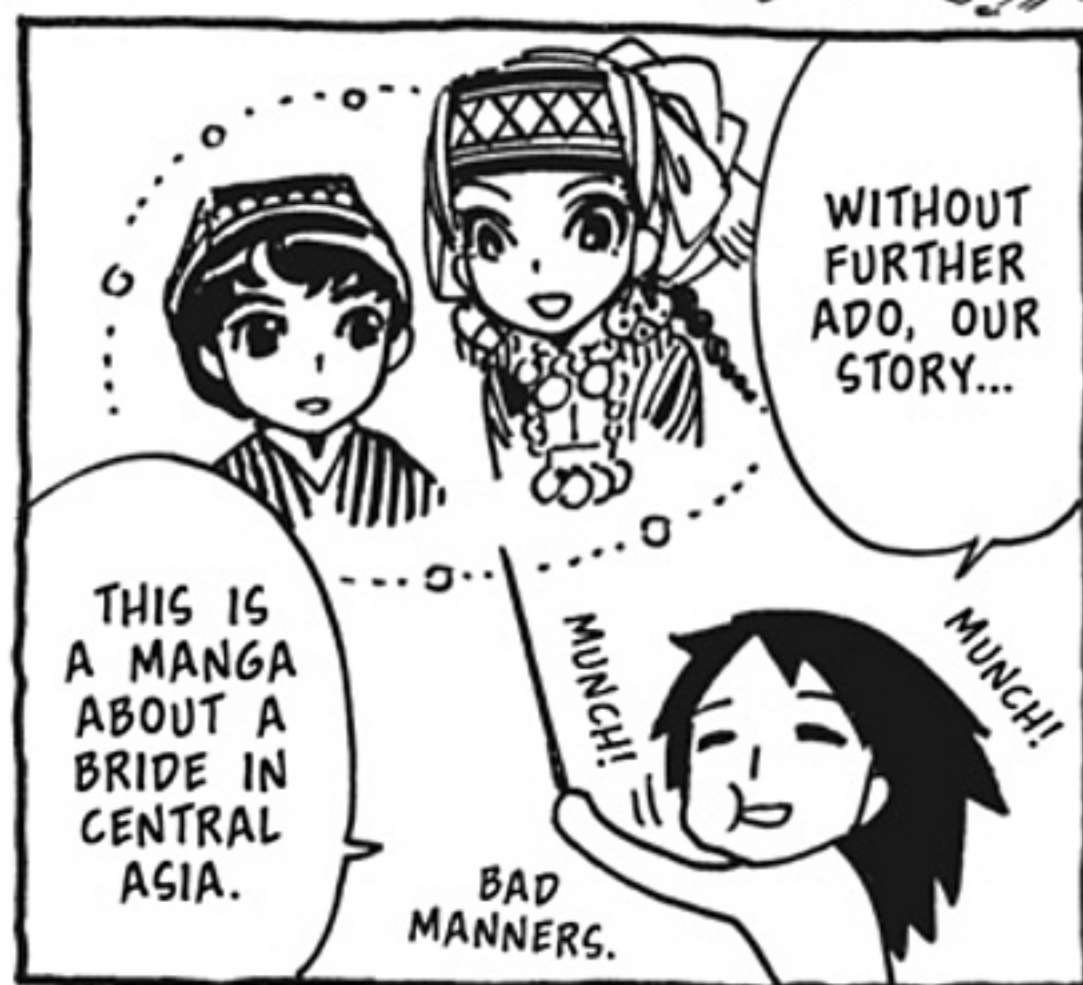
AFTERWORD TAN-TA-DAAH MANGA

**"THE FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL
GOES OFF TO BE MARRIED"**

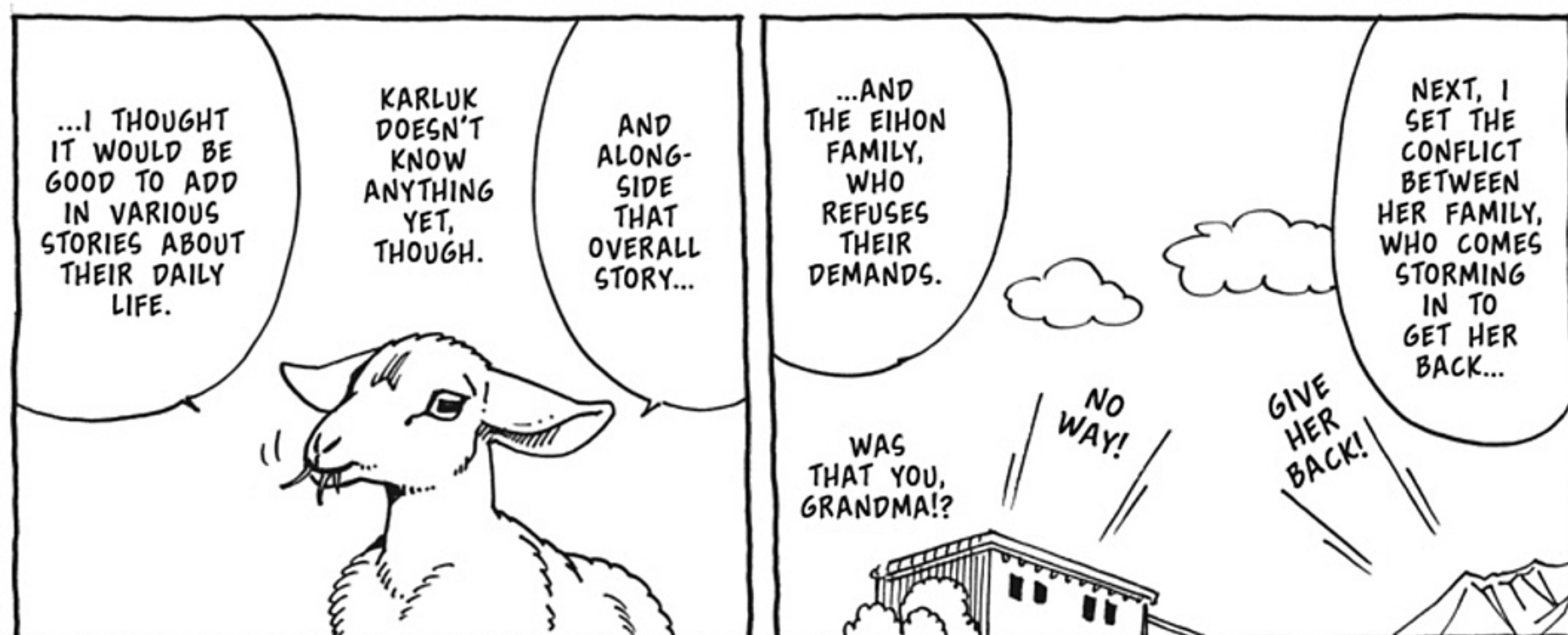
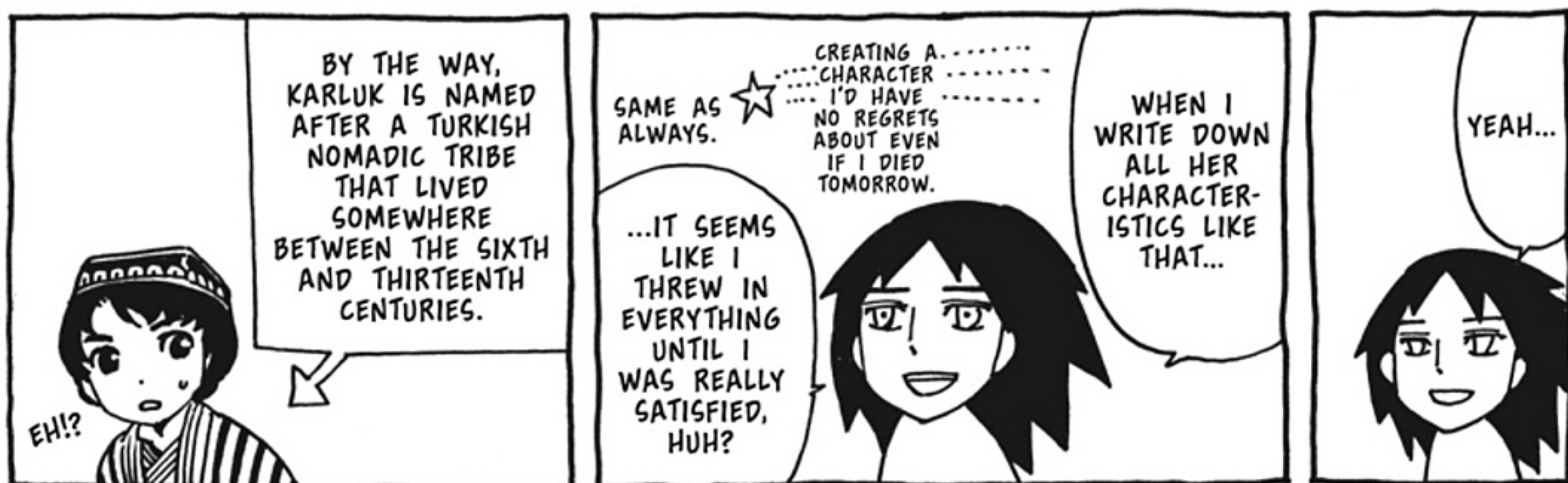
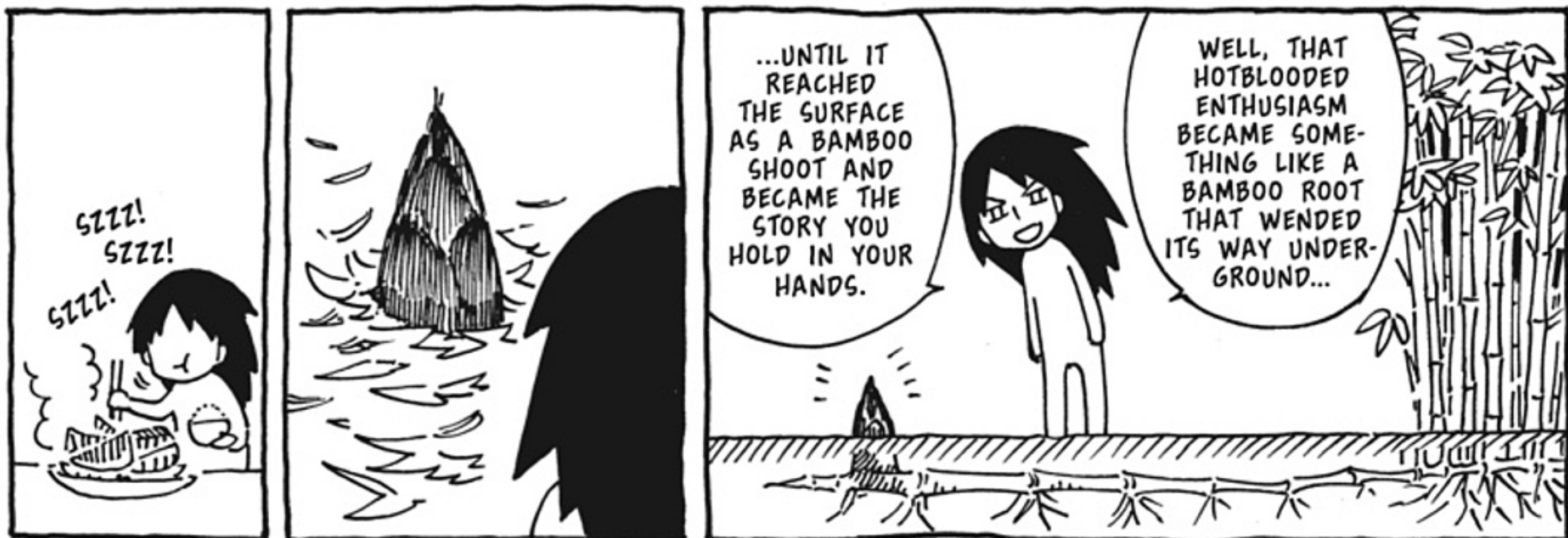
(AKA-TOMBO*)

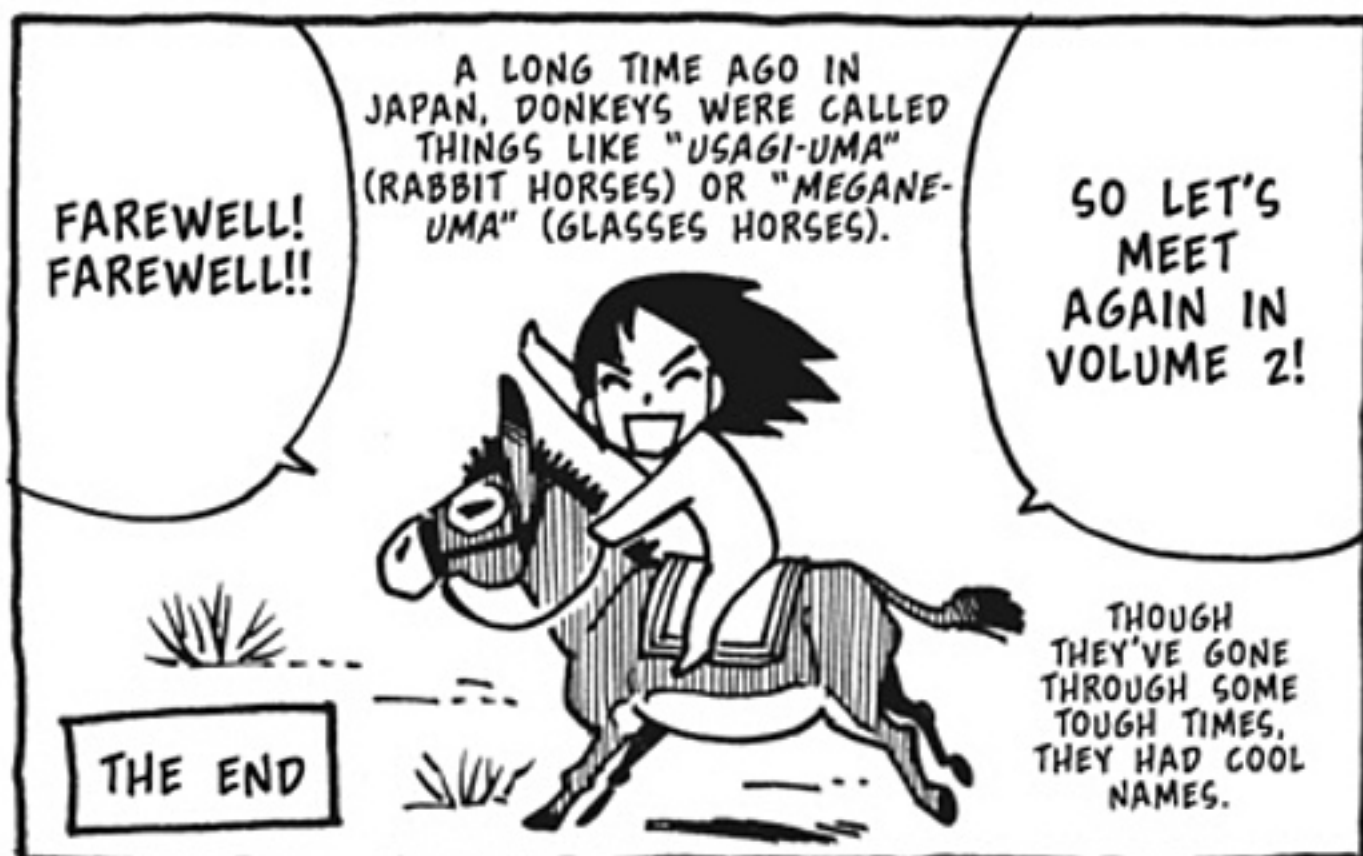
DURING THAT PERIOD, THE
NORMAL AGE FOR MARRYING
WAS FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN.

HEY YOU! YEAH, YOU,
BIG GUY, LOOKING AT HER
LIKE THAT! LET'S STEP OUT
INTO THE HALLWAY AND
HAVE A TALK! ()



*AKATOMBO IS A POEM WRITTEN IN 1921, WHICH WAS SET TO MUSIC IN 1927. IT TELLS THE TALE OF A CHILD WHO SEES A RED DRAGONFLY (AKATOMBO) WHILE BEING CARRIED BY THE FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO LOOKED AFTER HIM. NOT LONG AFTER, THE GIRL IS SENT OFF TO BE MARRIED, AND HE NEVER HEARS FROM HER AGAIN. THE SONG CALLS UP IMAGES OF VERY YOUNG BRIDES IN JAPANESE LISTENERS.



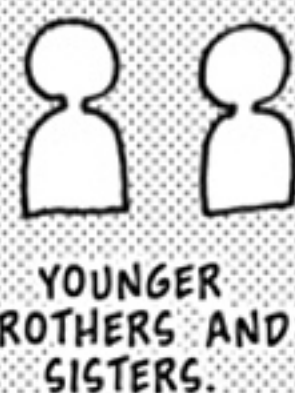
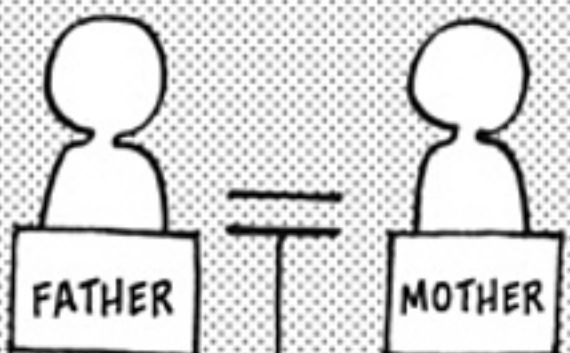


THE CHARACTERS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS ARE A LITTLE HARD TO UNDERSTAND, SO HERE IS A RELATIONSHIP CHART. AND THEIR NAMES.

STAYING WITH THE EIHONS SMITH



HALGAL FAMILY



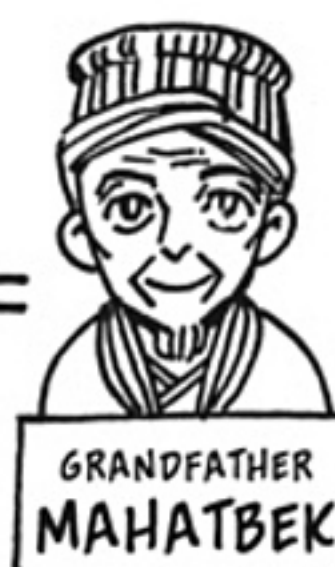
THE HALGAL FAMILY ONLY GOES NOMADIC DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. THEY ARE THE TYPE OF HERDING NOMADS WHO HAVE A PARTICULAR SPOT WHERE THEY SPEND THEIR WINTERS EVERY YEAR.



COUSINS

EIHON FAMILY

GRANDMOTHER'S FAMILY AND FORMER HOME.



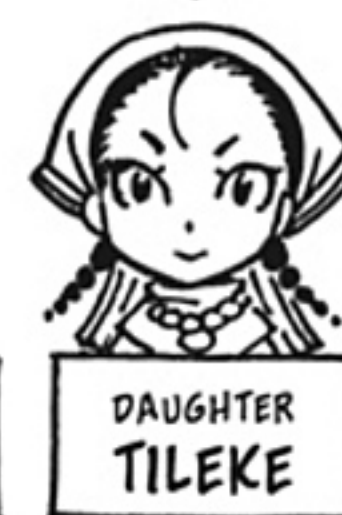
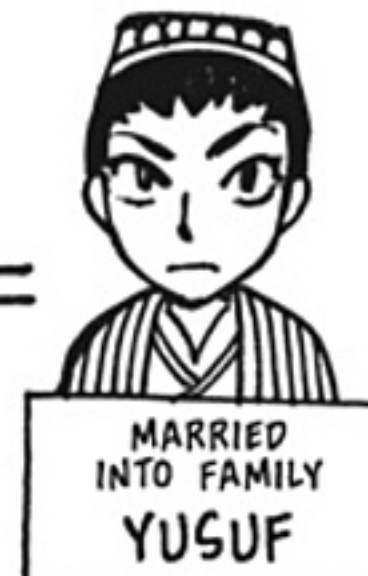
IT'S A TRADITION OF ULTIMOGENITURE, SO KARLUK (THE YOUNGEST) INHERITS.



ORIGINALLY THEY WERE NOMADIC HERDSMEN LIKE THE HALGALS, BUT SEVERAL GENERATIONS AGO, THEY SETTLED IN ONE SPOT.



THERE ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE MIDDLE, BUT ALL OF THEM HAVE MARRIED AND LEFT THE HOUSE.



A BRIDE'S STORY ①

KAORU MORI

TRANSLATION: WILLIAM FLANNAGAN

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

A BRIDE'S STORY Volume 1

© 2009 Kaoru Mori

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2009 by

KADOKAWA CORPORATION ENTERBRAIN

English translation rights arranged with

KADOKAWA CORPORATION ENTERBRAIN

through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo.

English translation © 2011 by Yen Press, LLC

Yen Press, LLC supports the right to free expression and the value of copyright. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press

1290 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10104

Visit us at yenpress.com

facebook.com/yenpress

twitter.com/yenpress

yenpress.tumblr.com

instagram.com/yenpress

First Yen Press eBook Edition: September 2018

Originally published as a hardcover in May 2011 by Yen Press.

Yen Press is an imprint of Yen Press, LLC.

The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Yen Press, LLC.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

ISBN: 978-1-9753-5634-7

